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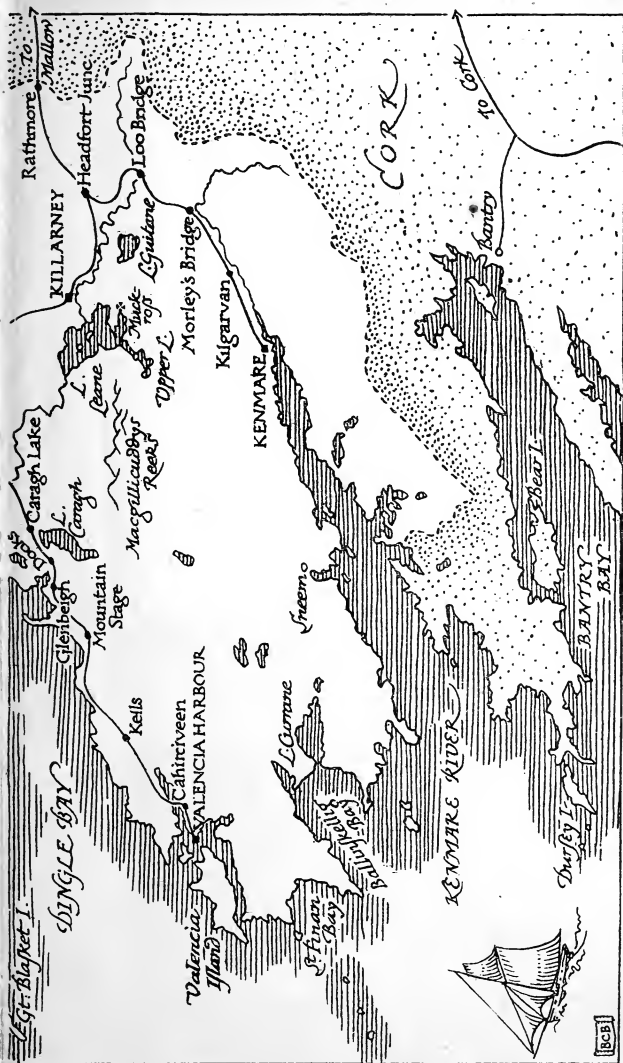
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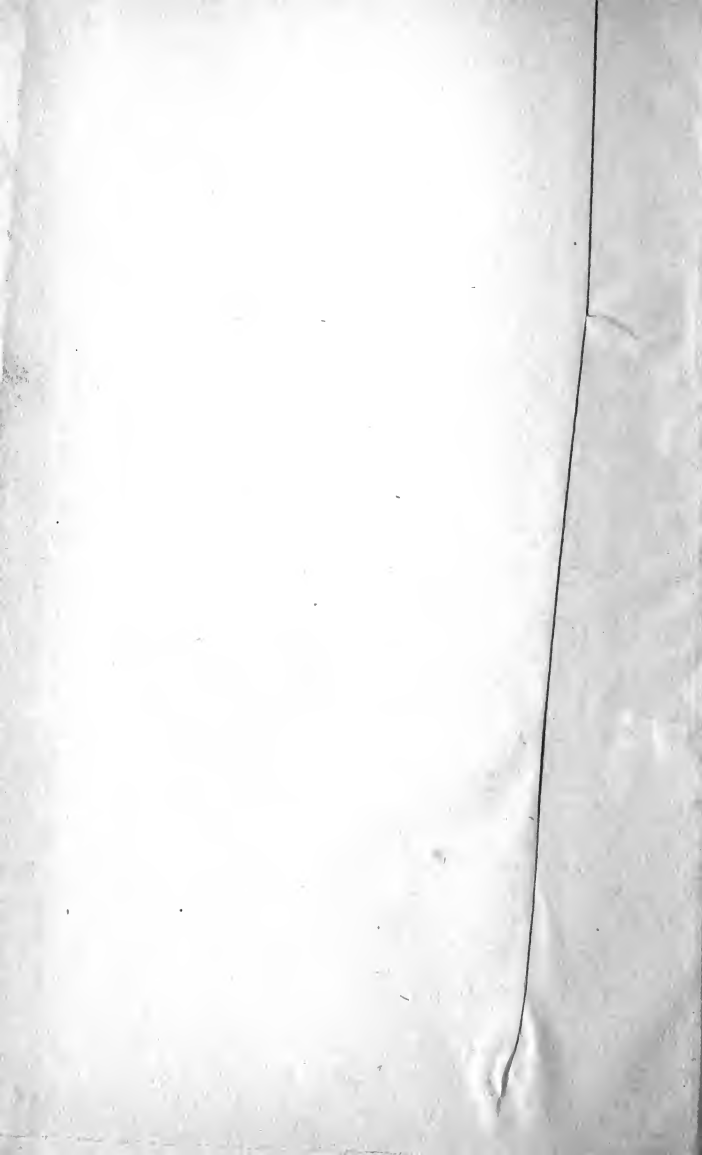
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VIEW FROM THE SKELLIG MICHAEL.

KERRY

By

C. P. CRANE

"
D.S.O.

With Illustrations from Photographs by
Geoffrey Parsons

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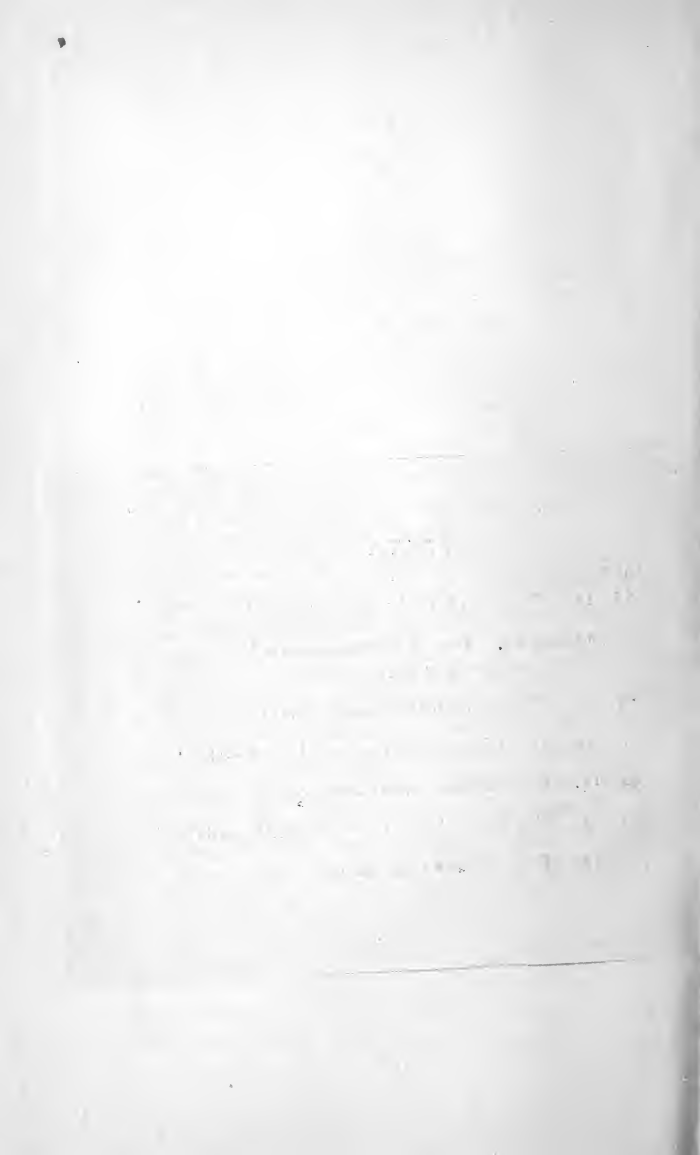
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ERRATA

PAGE LINE

- 68, 12. For 'Rinlares' read 'Rosslare'
- „ 13 and 14. For 'This latter route'
read 'The third route'
- 71, 19. For 'Pouldecka' read 'Poulderka'
- „ 22. For 'furze-crowned' read 'furze-clad'
- 94, 14. For 'Deena' read 'Deenagh'
- 153, 1. For 'sees the cell' read 'see the cells'
- „ 32. For 'More' read 'Some'



INTRODUCTION

I. SITUATION AND EXTENT

A GLANCE at the map will show the county of Kerry, lying in the extreme south-western corner of Ireland, bounded on the N. by the broad estuary of the Shannon, on the E. by the counties of Limerick and Cork, and on the S. and W. by the Atlantic Ocean. The greatest length of the county from N. to S. is 60 m., and the greatest breadth from E. to W. is 58 m.; and it is a somewhat remarkable coincidence that one of the most eastern and the most western of the mountains is named Mount Eagle.

The area of the county of Kerry is 1,185,918 acres, and within this area is contained such a wealth of history, of beauty, and interest that it must be in the future, as it has been in the past, a favourite touring ground for multitudes. Two long fiords, stretching out from the Atlantic, run well-nigh to the heart of the county and divide it naturally into three distinct and separate areas, each with its peculiar and widely different characteristics and its particular charm. There are the wide-open plains of brown bog, pasture, and plough land, and the broad straths running inland from the sea, which are characteristic of the baronies of Irraghticonnor, Clanmaurice, and

KERRY

Trughenacmy in North Kerry; there is the long ridge of hills rising in low slopes from the plain near Gortalea, and gaining height as it runs westwards to form the peaks of Bautregaum, Caherconree, and Benoskee, till it gains its highest point in Mount Brandon, and its end in Mount Eagle, which slopes to Dunmore, the most western point on the mainland of Ireland and the "next parish to America." This long range of high land is the main feature of the barony of Corkaguiny, "the fruitful land" (as it was known of old) of West Kerry. Lastly, there is the wonderful varied region comprised by the baronies of Iveragh, Dunkerron North and Dunkerron South, and Magonihy, where mountain on mountain meets the view, and where Carrantuohill, the loftiest peak in Ireland, dominates the whole district.

Innumerable loughs are found throughout the county, varying in size from the great Lough Leane of Killarney, and all the chains of loughs which feed it from the Black Valley onwards, to the small mountain tarns hidden amidst the glens, and known but to few.

The coast scenery, if equalled in other counties, is certainly not surpassed for variety and beauty. There are the wild storm-beaten cliffs from Brandon Head around by Ballydavid and Sybil Heads and Dunmore, in the barony of Corkaguiny, and around thence to Inch; there are the cliffs on the island of Valencia, towering up 600 ft. from the Atlantic; there are the lower headlands and secluded bays and creeks where the silver sand is fringed with the white foam of the breakers coming in clean and clear from the great "beyond." Lastly, there are the islands

SITUATION AND EXTENT

—"Sentinels" of this "enchanted land"—the Blaskets, the Skelligs, Scariff, and others, which will be mentioned later on in this Guide.

But added to all these attractions there is the charm of Kerry, and it is difficult to say from what that comes. It is something indescribable, but felt none the less surely by all who come to the county. Perhaps it arises from the colour on the hills and on the sea, or from the combination of cloud and sunshine, which lives in people's memories, even when the grey days of mist and rain blot out the pictures, or perhaps it comes from the wealth of foliage and the warmth which the Old Red Sandstone rocks give to the landscape. But from whatever cause it springs, it is an enchantment, taking hold of most people as strongly now as it did in the days of old, when it turned the Norman and Saxon settlers "more Irish than the Irish themselves." Kerry is always young; and there may be a deeper meaning than appears at first sight in the legend which tells how an O'Donoghue of old built a city in the land of perpetual youth, called Tir-nan-Oge, beneath the waters of Killarney Lake, and how the fairies from that land of perpetual youth visit the land above, even to the present day.

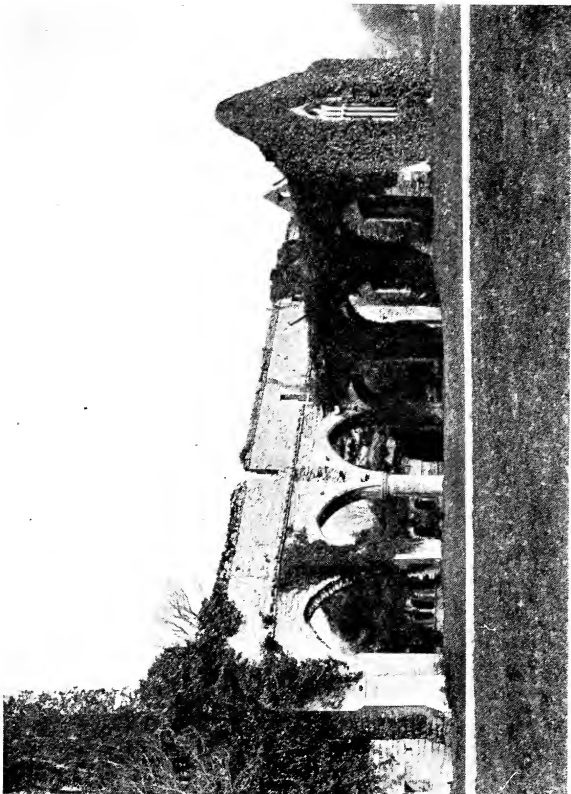
But, as every one is not impressed by scenery alone, so Kerry offers a variety of interests for all comers. The flora and fauna afford a rich field for those who care to study the many species of birds and flowers and ferns to be found. The remains of the early Christian period of our history are to be found in beehive cells and stone-roofed oratories, pilgrims' roads, and legends

KERRY

of half-forgotten saints and holy men. Old castles and keeps, cathedrals roofless and crumbling to decay, abbeys where the Franciscan friars lived and laboured, tell of the days of the Norman and English settlement. The face of the land is an open book of history for all to read who care for the story of days long past and gone. And then there is the legendary lore of Kerry, and in this no county in Ireland is richer. So to the archæologist, the antiquary, the historian, the naturalist, and the artist, Kerry offers an attractive field for observation.

These pages will give but a passing glance at the many interesting places and things to be seen. Descriptions in a little guide-book are but the outlines of pictures which every one must fill in and develop for himself, and the space available in this book can afford only a limited description of the many beautiful places in this beautiful land. The chief places of interest have been given in consecutive order, and in a way which may enable a visitor at a given centre to get as much as possible out of his visit. It would be impracticable to enumerate in detail all the walks and drives and cycle rides which may be enjoyed from these centres; but the writer will be amply rewarded if he can bring home to a few a small amount of the pleasure which a knowledge of Kerry has brought to him.

Many years ago the *Kerry Magazine*, quaintly termed "a journal of polite literature," was published in the county, and many able contributors recorded their researches in the history and folklore of "The Kingdom." In the pages of this journal for the year 1855 are some lines under the



ARDFERT ABBEY

GENERAL PHYSICAL FEATURES

heading of "Kerry Ballads," by a writer signing his or her name "K.," which run as follows:—

"How pure the air, what balm the breeze,
How dear the name to me;
How prized the memories that haunt
The bay of sweet Tralee.

There may be richer lands afar
Beyond the mighty sea;
But Kerry hearts can ne'er forget
The mountains of Tralee.

In lordly hall and humble cot
Alike a welcome's found,
Nor wanderer e'er felt desolate
Who trod on Kerry ground.

No stranger ever breathed her air
But found in her a home;
And travellers from distant lands
Have loved her as their own."

These lines, which give so truly a glimpse at the spirit of Kerry, may not inaptly form the concluding part of an Introduction to the old County Palatine of the Desmonds.

II. GENERAL PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SCENERY

A broad line of high land, glen, and pasture, where the heathery hills in places rise to some 1400 ft. above the sea-level, runs down the eastern border of county Kerry from Tarbert on the Shannon to near Rathmore. The formation of this moorland district, which resembles in some respects the moorlands of Yorkshire, is millstone grit. In the recesses of these hills are the sources of the rivers Blackwater, Feale, Maine, and Flesk. The first named flows east to join the sea at Youghal

in the county of Cork, and the three latter flow west to meet the sea in the estuary of the Shannon or in Dingle Bay. Part of the moorland district goes by the name of the Glanaruddery Mountains, and an offshoot running west forms the "Stacks Mountains," the low hills to be seen to the north of Tralee. Another offshoot of inconsiderable height runs S.W. by Scartaglin and Farranfore to the river Laune at Killorglin, and rising to the W. of that river forms the Iveragh range of mountains, which marks the southern boundary of Dingle Bay. "The Paps," rising to a height of 2268 ft., are the most eastern peaks in the county of Kerry. This eastern boundary line running still S. and S.E., bends round the head of the Clydagh Valley to turn S.W. along the ridge of the Derrynasaggart range to Knockboy, 2321 ft. above the sea; thence the line extends along by the Caha Mountains, by Knockowen (2169 ft.), to Hungry Hill (2251 ft.), which is the most southern point of the county Kerry. The boundary line then turns due N. and meets the sea at Ardgroom Harbour, a haven in the long fiord of Kenmare River.

The broad level plain, broken only by low rises at Kerry Head and Knockanore (880 ft.), stretches from the base of the Glanaruddery and Stacks Mountains to the sea, and bending round the low spurs of the hills at the Spa near Tralee, broadens out into a wide and fertile plain which extends to Castleisland and west to Castlemaine. Most of the baronies of Irraghticonnor, Clannaurice, and Trughenacmy are of this lowland character.

Widely different is the rest of Kerry. A range of mountains runs the whole length of the barony

GENERAL PHYSICAL FEATURES

of Corkaguiny, rising low from the Central Plain in the E. and getting higher as it sweeps W., till in Brandon it attains the height of 3127 ft. This range, with various offshoots and dips, has its end in Mount Eagle, which is the most western point of the mainland of Ireland. Almost the whole of this mountainous district is formed of Old Red Sandstone. Remains of the Ice Age may be seen in the grooved and polished rocks and the Moraines near the Pedlar's Lake on the Connor Hill Road and about Lough Cruttia in the recesses of Brandon.

The baronies of Iveragh, Dunkerron South, Dunkerron North, and Glanarought are a wild mass of mountains and glens, the ridges running E. and W., N. and S., with numerous valleys and wide straths between. The main points in all this district are Carrantuohill, the highest mountain in Ireland, and Beenkeragh, a sister peak, the former being 3414 ft. above the sea, and the latter about a hundred feet lower.

This wilderness of mountain and glen is chiefly of Old Red Sandstone formation; the rocks in places have been so crushed in the cooling of the earth's crust that the stratification is often almost perpendicular. This may be seen in the hills about Caragh and Sneem, and along the southern shore of the Kenmare River. Various pointed hills occur in parts of Kerry, rising up like small volcanic peaks to add variety to the wild scarped cliffs and round-headed mountains which prevail.

It is said that the geological structure of the whole of the south of Ireland is as simple as that of the Jura district. The coal measures and carboniferous limestone and slate of the upward folds have gradu-

ally given way before the weather of ages and left the Old Red Sandstone, whilst the surface of the downward fold has been gradually worn away into valleys. The Lower Lake of Killarney lies in carboniferous limestone, which can be seen cropping out about Muckross and Dinas, whilst the Upper Lake lies amongst the Old Red Sandstone. There are coal measures in North Kerry which cover a considerable area but contain very little coal. Slate of a superior kind is to be found on Valencia Island. The south of Ireland was once a good copper-producing country, and mines were worked in Ross Island. Copper and iron ore are still to be found in many parts of Kerry.

Between Kenmare and Glengariffe may be seen further evidences of the Ice Age, and the lower ground and the sides of the mountains show the smooth round forms which tell geologists stories which make the uninitiated wonder, and lead to such quaint replies as the following: "What would you say," was asked of a Kerry farmer, "if I told you that the whole of the hills along the shores of the Kenmare River had been grooved and polished by ice?" "Well, sir, I'd be apt to say you were a liar!" A broad band of carboniferous limestone, beginning near Ballylongford in North Kerry, bends in the form of the letter S round by Ardfert and Tralee and on to Castleisland, and southwards then to Killarney Lakes. This limestone marks the most fertile area in Kerry, and it crops up out of the drift area of millstone grit and shale.

The geology of Kerry is very simple—limestone, millstone grit, and Old Red Sandstone, with just a ribbon of Silurian and Cambrian formation along the cliffs on both sides of Smerwick Harbour and

GENERAL PHYSICAL FEATURES

along the southern slope of the hills from LISPole to Caherconree in the barony of Corkaguiny. In a gorge of the hills behind Lough Guitane in the Killarney district a ridge of basaltic formation is to be seen, and the same formation occurs on the island called Beginish in the harbour of Valencia. Geologists say that the loveliness of hill and valley in the mountainous regions of Kerry is attributable to the geological formations, and certainly the Old Red Sandstone lends additional beauty to the scenery by the warmth of its colour.

Lakes.—South Kerry is studded with loughs of various sizes and of infinite degrees of beauty. Lough Leane, or, as it is sometimes called, the Lower Lake of Killarney, is the largest of these loughs, being $4\frac{1}{8}$ m. in length, and covering an area of 5001 acres. Next in size comes Lough Currane at Waterville, and “Muckcross,” or the Middle Lake, connected with Lough Leane by a narrow neck of water spanned by Brickeen Bridge. The Upper Lake, considered by some people the most beautiful of the three lakes of Killarney, is connected with the Middle Lake by a stretch of water known as the Long Range, which, flowing between the hills and at the base of Eagle’s Nest, rushes under the arches of the “Old Weir Bridge” to form the shady spot known as the “Meeting of the Waters.”

The next lough in point of beauty is Lough Caragh, which lies calm and still under the shadows of the hills to the W. of Killarney. Lough Currane, at Waterville, has long been famous for its fishing, and the Derryana Loughs, sunk in the recesses of the mountains near the same place, are celebrated for their scenery. Lough Guitane,

KERRY

lying at the foot of the graceful Croghane Mountain, and about four m. E. of Killarney, is a fine sheet of water, and the glen of Keppoch at the far end of this lough is well worth a visit on a long summer's day.

The Black Valley has three loughs of considerable size, and the Glencar district contains Lough Acoose and Cloon Lough. In the Dingle district there is Castlegregory Lake, a shallow piece of water guarded by sandhills from the encroaching waters of Brandon Bay; the "White Lake," at the head of the Cloghane Valley; Lough Cruttia, in the wide gorge torn by the ages in the side of Mount Brandon; the Coumanare Lakes, three in number, in the range of hills which separates the northern and southern portions of the barony of Corkaguiny; Lough Adoon and Lough Coumclohan, in the same range of hills; and lastly, on the southern shore of Kenmare River there are the beautiful Cloonee Loughs, Lough Inchiquin and Glanmore Lough, each vieing with the other in beauty.

To name all the loughs in Kerry would be impossible in the space of this little Guide. Their number and variety would entail a lengthy description, and it must suffice to give this outline.

Rivers.—The rivers of Kerry flow in almost every direction, except towards the E. The main streams rise in the eastern mountain land which marks the boundary between Kerry and Cork, and thence spread out to find their various ways to the sea. The river Feale, flowing by Abbeyfeale and Listowel, widens into the Cashen, and mingles its waters with the Shannon in the sea near Ballybunion; the brown Flesk and the Maine flow by



LOUGH COUNCLOHANE

GENERAL PHYSICAL FEATURES

Castleisland and Farranfore, and join, and make, for the rest of their journey, the Maine River, which ends its course in the sandy harbour of Castlemaine at the head of Dingle Bay. The river Laune, which joins the sea near Killorglin, may be said to have its source in the Killarney Lakes. Into these lakes flow two considerable streams, one the Flesk, which, joined by the Clydagh from the Derrynasaggart Mountains and the Ouncencree from the bogs and hills of the north, flows a fine broad, dashing river to the Killarney lake at Cahirnane; the other, the Geerameen, which flows from the Black Valley to the Upper Lake. The Roughty river drains the Kilgarvan Valley as far as Kenmare, and the Kerry Blackwater flows due south from Lough Brin to join the sea at Dromore, on the Kenmare river. The little streams flowing southwards at Sneem and Darrynane are pretty, but unimportant; but the short river leading from Lough Currane at Waterville to Ballinskelligs Bay is famous for its salmon fishery. Here the weir granted by charter by King John is still to be seen, and is still profitable. Beyond this is the Inny, flowing in a long straight silvery line from Balloughisheen Pass to Ballinskelligs Bay; and the Ferta, which flows out at Cahirciveen, and the Caragh, which is the outflow of the lovely lake of that name. In the barony of Corkaguiny there are but two rivers of any size and importance. The Cloghane, which rises in the White Lake, and flows at the eastern side of Mount Brandon to join the sea at Cloghane. This is an excellent little salmon river. The Feoghana, on the western side of Brandon, rises in a deep gorge, and flows in a succession of pools

and streams to join the sea at Smerwick Harbour. These two rivers, belonging to Lord Ventry, are strictly preserved.

Mountains.—The highest peaks in Ireland are found in Kerry, in the Reeks and Carrantuohill, the last name meaning "*The inverted reaping hook.*" The heights of these peaks are as follow:—

Carrantuohill, . . .	3414 ft.
Beenkeragh, . . .	3314 ft.

From a distance the two peaks look very much the same height. Carrantuohill practically dominates the whole county of Kerry, and from the summit may be seen the mountains and loughs, the sea-girt isles, and the long fiords, laid out as though on a map at the feet of the climber. Here and there a prominent hill may shoulder out a part of the view, but the defect can be supplemented by a knowledge of geography and a vivid imagination.

The next highest and most important mountain in Kerry is Mount Brandon. Seen from the sea, this mountain presents a more imposing presence than Carrantuohill; for, though only 3127 ft. high, its base is far-stretching, even to the shores of the Atlantic; whereas the range of the Reeks being further inland, the highest points are not so impressive. Brandon is a most fascinating mountain, and it so grows on those who know it well that it gets to seem a living thing. The deep cleft in the E. side which contains Lough Cruttia was once, it is said, the bed of a glacier, the moraine of which may be seen in the boulder-strewn gorge which extends from the lake to the broad brown valley of Cloghane. The E.

GENERAL PHYSICAL FEATURES

side of Brandon has been so torn and washed by the storms of centuries that the rocks are bare of vegetation, and shine and shimmer in the sunlight. This process of erosion and breaking away of the crest of the mountain is still going on, as may be seen in the avalanche-like appearance of the gorge above Lough Cruttia. To view this mountain on a fine clear day from the Connor Hill road is an experience not to be forgotten ; to climb to the summit and learn its secret is an education to be left to those who love to learn the story of the mountains first hand from the mountains themselves. On the highest summit of Mount Brandon are to be seen the remains of an ancient oratory where St Brandon said Mass long ages ago. A pilgrimage to the top of the mountain takes place each year from Cloghane, but it is now many years since the good Bishop of Kerry said Mass on the site of this ancient oratory.

Mangerton Mountain comes next in the list of important mountains in Kerry. It is one of the most prominent features of the scenery about Killarney, and one of the first mountains the stranger sees when approaching the town by the railway. Its height is only 2756 ft. above the sea-level, being some 40 ft. lower than Bautregaum, and only 2 ft. higher than the graceful and little known Beenoskee (Hill of the Shadows), which is one of the principal peaks in the Dingle range of hills.

But though Mangerton is not one of the highest, it is one of the most massive mountains in Kerry, a big, solid, somewhat uninteresting lump of heather and rock. Its very weight seems to impress the imagination of the beholder. There

is nothing bold or grand or picturesque about it save perhaps the precipice which leads to the great gorge torn in its side, and called in the language of the country "Gloun-na-Coppal," or the Glen of the Horses.

Mangerton is not even hard to climb. A steady slope leads from base to summit, passing along the shoulder of the hill by the little lake called the "Devil's Punchbowl," and again rising somewhat more abruptly to the moss-crowned top. But though in appearance solid and unimposing, and though its ascent is devoid of any element of chance or excitement, there is a view to be obtained of the most exquisite and enchanting description. Below lies the forest laid out as a map where the red deer are to be seen in the "corries" and flats. Beyond rise the blue mountains of Dunkerron over the silver streak of the Upper Lake, and beyond again mountain on mountain meets the eye. Southwards lies Kenmare River, and in the shining horizon the Bull and Cow Rocks, off the coast of Dursy Island; and away eastward of those landmarks, the long line of the coast of County Cork. Northwards lie the plains of Kerry and Cork, the lower hills lost in the prevailing flatness which stretches out dim and blue to the Shannon and the distant land of Clare away beyond the river.

The *Slieve Mish* range of hills contains two points of considerable height, Bautregaum, 2796 ft. above the sea, and Caherconree, 2715 ft. These peaks can be ascended either from Tralee by keeping along the ridge from Foley's Glen, W., or from Camp Station. There is no difficulty in the climb, and the view over the bays of Dingle and Tralee is well worth the trouble.

GENERAL PHYSICAL FEATURES

Waterfalls.—I now come to the waterfalls of this fairyland county. There are two as well known as Killarney itself—Torc Cascade and O'Sullivan Cascade. The one falls almost sheer over a cliff between the shoulders of Torc and Mangerton Mountains, and the other leaps in detachments down the gorge in the side of Toomie's Mountain on the far shore of the Lower Lake. Both these cascades are celebrated and worthy of the reputation they have gained. But in the recesses of the mountains, when the floods are out, there are other falls to be seen.

Go to Brandon when there has been a spell of rain and see the waterfall at the head of Lough Cruttia pouring down white from the very heart of the hill, or the silver streak which slips down the cliffs at the head of Lough Avoonane or Lough Adoon. Or go to the Coumenard Loughs when the rain storms have filled the springs and saturated the land, and you will understand then what is meant by "the sound of many waters," and this music of the hills will live with you all your days; or turn around as you drive along to Glencar and look at the peaks of Carrantuohill and Beenkeragh, when the flood is coming from Lough Coomloughra high up in the clouds, and you will doubt if the kingdom can offer a more wonderful mountain scene.

In the solitudes on the S.E. shore of Kenmare River there are numbers of beautiful falls to be seen. But there is nothing big in the way of waterfalls in Kerry. It is the charming variety of these little homely cascades which defies description and fascinates the wanderer. They rush and tear down the mountain sides through a tangle of fern

and heather ; they seam the precipice with a line of snow ; they leap from the brown glens over the cliffs into the heaving, sobbing sea ; and they murmur down the grey rocky slopes in the vast recesses of the mountains.

They are the great compensations for wet weather and soothing whispers from the great heart of nature, urging restless spirits to seek for the promised peace in the shelter of the everlasting hills :—

“The mountains also shall bring peace.”

The last remarks to be made in this chapter must be with regard to the seas of Kerry. It might be imagined that the headlands, pushing out further to the W. than any in the British Isles, and even than any in Europe except Iceland, would be exposed to the greatest seas. But as regards Kerry this is not the case. The extreme points of Dunmore, the Blasket Islands, Valencia, and the Skelligs are at least 200 m. from the “1000 fathoms line.” That line nearing the S. coast opposite to Cape Clear to within 100 miles, bends in a loop around the coast of Kerry, and only comes near to Ireland again at the N.W. corner of Mayo, where it is within 60 m. of the shore. The great western rollers dissipate their force in crossing comparatively shallow water before they reach the headlands of Valencia and the Blaskets, and, consequently, the waves are not of the same magnitude as they are in places where the “1000 fathoms line” approaches nearer the shore. But the difference is not apparent to an ordinary observer, and some of the storm seas around the coast of Kerry will satisfy even the most exacting critic.

CLIMATE

III. CLIMATE

Rainfall.—It is often said that the one great drawback to Kerry is the amount of wet weather which falls to the lot of the dwellers in this delectable land. Taking the period from 1881 to 1900, the statistics show that the average number of rain days per year was for Valencia 247, and for Killarney 223, and the rainfall during the same period averaged 55.17 inches for Valencia and 56.47 inches for Killarney. July, it is true, is usually rather a rainy month in Kerry, and from November to March the county gets a full share of wet weather. But sometimes fine dry weather is experienced in January, though it often has to be paid for later on. The finest months are May, June, August, September, and October, but April is a delightful month in Kerry, even though the heavy showers sometimes upset arrangements for touring. But having said so much against the rainy climate, something must be said for it. The rain in Kerry is not, as a rule, the dull persistent downpour one experiences in some places. If it rains, it rains with a will and an energy indescribable. But there are really few days when it is not possible to go out. The skies clear quickly and after a downpour the sun comes out and the rain is forgotten. The old doggerel lines describing the Kerry weather will often come to the traveller's memory :—

“ When the barometer rises very,
How it rains in Cork and Kerry !
When the barometer falls, O lawk !
How it rains in Kerry and Cork ! ”

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Temperature.—Kerry enjoys a singularly equable temperature—possibly the mildest to be found in the British Isles. The Gulf Stream, which glides across the Atlantic bringing its warm currents to meet the colder waters of the Northern Ocean, though it may produce a good deal of rain, undoubtedly contributes to the mildness of the climate and enables a variety of sub-tropical vegetation to grow and flourish in the open. Occasionally the mountains are covered with snow in winter, and frosts occur but never last long.

At Valencia, in the period from 1881 to 1900, the maximum temperature was registered at the average of 56.0 and the minimum at 45.7. The maximum temperature at Killarney during the same period being 56.2 and the minimum 42.8. The amount of possible sunshine registered at Valencia, taking a possible 100 as standard, was 34.

From the statistics it might be inferred that Kerry was a dull, gloomy, sunless quarter of the globe. But the contrary impression remains on the minds of those who know the county well. There is no part of Ireland which leaves such a sunny memory as Kerry. The climate may be compared to a lengthened April day when swishing rain is succeeded by gleams of sunshine. When it is fine in Kerry it really is fine, and the brilliance of the sun and the blueness of the sky can only be likened to Italian skies and sunshine. The colours of the hills and the whole beauty of the scenery of the county is enhanced by this combination of cloud and rain and sunshine to a remarkable degree.

And, lastly, for the time to visit this county.

FAUNA AND FLORA

It matters not at what season the visitor comes, whether in Winter, when possibly the mountains are covered with snow and the hoar frost is on the birch trees; in Spring, when the deciduous trees are a vivid green, and the apple and May blossom white against a background of purple hills; in Summer, when the brown on the bogs and hills has turned a subdued green, and the woods are rich with foliage; or in Autumn, when the whole county is a perfect concert of colour. The charm will catch hold of the traveller and he will (if he be a lover of scenery) admit that there are few parts of the earth where nature presents a more attractive appearance. Travellers should never be deterred by statistics of weather. There is hardly a day throughout the year when it is impossible to go out and enjoy the grand scenery of this county. And often visitors will be forced to admit that gathering clouds and drifting rain add to the beauty of the mountains.

IV. FAUNA AND FLORA

Animals.—The County of Kerry has the distinction of being the only part of Ireland where the wild red deer (*cervus elaphus*), indigenous to the country, are still to be found. The forest of Muckross and that of the Earl of Kenmare, which “marches” with it, are the places where these red deer are to be seen. The former forest embraces the west slope of Mangerton Mountain, and Torc, and the Toomies, and the latter the hills and corries behind Derrycunihy, the lower slopes of the Purple mountain and Gléna. Both these forests being strictly preserved are inaccessible

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to tourists. But the wild red deer may frequently be seen when driving to Derrycunihy, or when descending the "long range" from the upper lake to Dinas by boat; and an attraction to the ascent of Mangerton is afforded in the view over the forest ground which lies beneath, where deer may always be observed with the aid of a telescope. Japanese deer, beautiful creatures about the size of a fallow deer, live in the woods which clothe the sides of Torc and the whole chain of hills to Derrycunihy. Occasionally one of these animals may be seen, but they are not fond of the open as a rule, and hence the chance of a sight of one of them is not so common as it is of the red deer. Wild goats are found in the inaccessible cliffs of Brandon and Carrantuohill, and a few exist on "Eagle's Nest." Foxes and badgers are in considerable numbers in the fastnesses of the hills, but needless to say are rarely seen owing to their nocturnal habits, and the fact that the greater part of their lives is spent underground in safe places which defy the efforts of the spade. Hill shepherds see them, however, and tell stories of their evil deeds. The mountain hare (*lepus variabilis*) is the only species of hare found in Kerry. On the high mountains in winter time this animal turns nearly white, and instances of pure white specimens have occurred more than once. Years ago the marten cat was not uncommon in the woods about Glengroomies and Caragh Lake, but of late years it has been rarely heard of and still more rarely seen. The stoat is fairly common, but the weasel is unknown. Otters are too numerous to please the fishermen. But like the fox and badger, they are rarely seen by casual visitors. Occasionally an otter may be

FAUNA AND FLORA

observed fishing in lonely lake or stream, but the sight is of rare occurrence. The squirrel and the mole are unknown in Kerry. The common seal is found all round the coast, and a walk along the cliffs by Smerwick or Valencia, or an evening in a boat under the cliffs of Eske, near Dingle, is sure to be rewarded by the sight of a seal. Many years ago, when seals were protected at Derreen, it was a common enough sight to see three or four of these animals lying on the kelp-covered rocks at low tide. But the injury done to the salmon fishing has necessitated interference with this sanctuary. In former days the peasant fisher folk around the coast made money by the capture of young seals in the caves. The flesh boiled down produced a valuable oil, which was much in request. This limited industry has now ceased, and seals have increased in numbers of late years. Mr Trench, in his "Realities of Irish Life," describes this exciting and rather dangerous occupation, and the caves where he lays the scene of his and others exploits are on the S. shore of Kenmare river, not far from Derreen.

Birds.—Chief amongst the birds of Kerry is the golden eagle. He is given the place of honour because, though nowadays hardly ever seen or heard of, on more than one occasion in comparatively recent years the bird and the nest have been met with in Kerry. In 1887 a pair of golden eagles built their nest in the crags of the mountain called "Eagle's Nest," near Killarney. The egg-collecting propensity, which has done such damage to our wild birds, caused the nest to be harried by some unknown person, and the eagles have never returned. About the same time a party when woodcock

shooting near the same mountain saw a pair of golden eagles which soared and circled in spirals overhead for a long time. Peasants in the Iveragh Mountains and on by Waterville tell of the days when eagles were numerous enough to be a serious cause of anxiety to flock masters. The osprey has been seen on various occasions, and as late as 1904 one of these birds was seen near Lough Avoonane under the high saddle-back peak of Brandon. The birds do not nest in Kerry, and the specimens seen from time to time are probably migrants. The peregrine falcon is still to be found in the wilder parts of the county where inaccessible cliffs afford safe nesting places. The merlin, kestrel, and hen harrier are all fairly common. There are only two owls known in Kerry. The barn owl (*strix flammea*) and the long-eared owl (*asio otus*). The latter is frequently met with in the woods in winter time, where he sometimes falls a victim to mistaken identity. A beater shouts "mark cock," and the poor owl falls. The red grouse is the only specimen of the tetraonidæ to be found in the county. Black game, ptarmigan, or capercailzie do not exist. This information is given for the benefit of Scotch visitors, who almost invariably ask the question. Quail were formerly found in Kerry, but for many years they have not been seen. Partridges, too, are becoming less numerous every year. The chief of the game birds are the woodcock and snipe, which come in large numbers every winter. Many of both these species of birds breed in the county. The raven is still to be seen in the wild district to the W. and N. of Dingle, and in some of the more remote districts of

the county, whilst the hooded Royston or grey crow is common in almost every part of Kerry. Rooks and magpies are too common to need mentioning. The magpie, it should be remarked, is not a native Irish bird. He came to the county some time about the end of the seventeenth century, and, like other English settlers, has become more Irish than the native Irish birds. As in England, he is a bird around whom many superstitions have gathered, and to fail to take off the hat to a single magpie is to court ill luck for the day. Starlings are winter visitants to Kerry, and in October when the autumn leaves are falling and the reeds beginning to fade by the lake shores, vast flocks of starlings appear and roost in the reed beds and osiers along the shores of Lough Leane. The wings of these hosts as they whirl and rise and fall in the air make a mighty rustling sound, bringing to mind the lines of Dante:—

“And as the wings of starlings bear them on
In the cold season, in large band and full,
Hither, thither, downward, upward.”

When November is past these large bands break up into smaller bodies and disperse all over the county, to disappear when spring returns.

It would be impossible within the space of this short chapter to enumerate the smaller birds of Kerry, those which make the woods in spring resound with song, and which, even in winter time when the days are mild, seem to forget the season and sing lustily. But a few will be mentioned which are not of common occurrence. Late in autumn, when crossing the Connor Hill Pass, especially if the weather has been stormy, the little snow bunting may be seen. This pretty little brown-

and-white migrant flits along the road before the traveller, affording a good opportunity for observation. The grasshopper warbler may be heard in May in the neighbourhood of Killarney, and the goat-sucker (*caprimulgus*) both heard and seen late on a summer evening by the copsewoods at Caragh, or on the edge of the great Poul decka plantation at the foot of Mangerton, and in the woods around Parknasilla. The wheat-ear chat is a summer visitor, and met with in most parts. The golden oriole has been seen and shot near the old Castle of Rahinane near Ventry within recent years. But, being a maritime county, perhaps the most interesting ornithological observations will be amongst the sea birds which abound all round the shores of the county. The gannet or solan-goose breeds on the small Skellig Rock, and can often be seen to great advantage when fishing in Dingle Bay or along the coast of Valencia. The sight of gannets fishing is one of the most interesting in the field of marine ornithology. The birds soar up in the air, keeping a sharp look-out by bending the head down to see the first sign of their prey. Then suddenly half closing their wings, they plunge headlong into the sea. The common cormorant (*Phalacrocorax Carbo*) and the shag (*P. graculus*) are met with all along the coast. The former, to the distress of fly fishers, goes in large numbers to the inland waters, especially to Lough Leane and Caragh. Choughs are to be found at various points of the coast where the cliffs are highest. They are not so numerous as formerly, but enough are left still to interest and please the observer. Of gulls we have the "greater black back" which nests on the Blasket Islands, the lesser

black back which has a sanctuary for breeding in the lone Mucklaghmore Rock in Tralee Bay, the kittiwake, herring, and common gull, which breed all along the rock-bound coast in vast numbers. To the Blasket Islands the puffins come in May to nest in the holes, and there, too, is to be found the nest of the little storm petrel (Mother Carey's Chicken). Large numbers of Brent geese, erroneously called bernacle, come to Tralee Bay in winter, and in Dingle harbour during the same season the great northern diver may frequently be observed. This bird is known by the name of "the loon." Wild swans in hard weather come to Lough Gill near Castle Gregory and the bogs to the north of Killarney, and the attractive bit of waste marsh near Ross castle always holds flocks of wild geese in winter time. The common wild duck, widgeon, pintail, shoveller duck, and golden eye are found in the inlets along the coast, whilst the teal is fairly numerous on the inland bogs and loughs. Herons are numerous in Kerry, and their nesting places vary from the high trees at Beaufort near Killarney and Ballyseedy near Tralee, to the stunted holly bushes in Lough Guitane and the steep cliffs of Eske near Dingle.

Fish.—The coast of Kerry is rich in the variety of fish obtainable at various seasons of the year. Mackerel, herring, cod, ling, sole, turbot, and whiting abound in the seas from Kerry Head to Ballinskelligs Bay. Pollack fishing can be enjoyed to perfection around the cliffs from Bull Head to Ventry harbour, and amidst the rocks and islands of the Blasket Sounds and all around the coast to Kenmare. Bass are also to be got in the "Short Strand" near Dingle and in Ballinskelligs Bay.

“Connor fish,” a species of bream, are caught with stout rod and line on the Magharee Islands and at the foot of the cliffs near Brandon Creek, and in fact in most places around the coast.

The chief salmon rivers are the Feale, the Maine, the Laune, Caragh, and Glencar rivers; the Flesk, running into Killarney lakes, the Roughty river flowing into the Bay of Kenmare, the Blackwater and Sheen rivers, and the river running from the Glenmore valley into Kilma-killage harbour on the south side of Kenmare bay, and lastly the Cloghane, Feoghana, and Auniscaul rivers in the Dingle peninsula. Killarney and Caragh lakes and Lough Currane are the chief salmon lakes in Kerry, but salmon and white trout fishing can be enjoyed with permission of the owner in Lough Gal or the White Lake at the head of Cloghane river in Lough Auniscaul and in the Derryana loughs near Waterville. Innumerable lakes where small brown trout can be caught abound throughout the county, but before attempting to fish it is well to make enquiries as to the ownership. This little courtesy is very necessary to prevent disappointment. It is always safest to assume that all lakes, save those which are well known as free fishing, such as Killarney lakes, Caragh, and Waterville, belong to some one, it may be a private owner, an hotel, or a syndicate, and it is not always safe to trust to general rumour.

Flora.—To the botanist the county of Kerry is a district of great interest and importance. The equable climate and the rich soil are favourable to the growth of many plants known in southern Europe, but found scarcely anywhere in the British Isles. The arbutus or strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*)

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flourishes on the islands and along the shores of Killarney lakes, and also along the shores of the Kenmare river. Tree ferns, eucalyptus, dracænas, and bamboos can be seen in the sheltered woods and grounds about Killarney, Dingle, Kenmare, and Valencia Island, and at Rosdohan near Sneem, wattles mimosas, "bottle brushes," and the beautiful *Datura* flourish in the open. Fuchsia hedges are pretty adjuncts to the scenery about Dingle, and in places all round the coast, from Valencia to Cahirdaniel and Sneem. In the gardens of Glanleadon in Valencia Island, an enormous fuchsia grows. The London pride (*Saxifraga umbrosa*) grows on the rocky sides of the mountains above Dingle and Killarney, and the Irish spurge (*Euphorbia Hyberna*) flourishes throughout the country to the distraction of the fishermen and the joy of the river poisoning poacher. The bogs of South Kerry are made beautiful in May and June by the exquisite flowers of the great butterwort (*Pinguicula grandiflora*), which is said to only grow in the bogs of Cork and Kerry, whilst in the neighbourhood of Darrynane may be found the rare *Simethis bicolor*, first discovered in 1848, and which only grows in Kerry. The Killarney fern (*Trichomanes radicans*) has almost ceased to exist in Kerry owing to the ceaseless desire to get it which takes possession of visitors. The Tunbridge filmy fern (*Hymenophyllum Tunbridgense*) is fairly common. The marsh fern (*Aspidium thelypteris*) is found near Killarney.

It may not here be out of place to mention the damage which is done by the careless and useless taking of ferns and flowers in a district like Kerry.

Many people gather the flowers and ferns, tearing them up by the roots only to throw them away a few miles further along the road. Others vainly try to transplant the Kerry flowers in other places, ignorant apparently of the fact that few, if any, of these plants ever flourish in alien soils. The destruction of ferns and flowers, and the wanton breaking of the branches of beautiful shrubs, must be deplored by all unselfish visitors who wish others to enjoy through many years the things they have enjoyed themselves.

The county of Kerry is said to be richer in mosses than any other part of Ireland, and the woods around Killarney are perhaps the most favourable locality for this growth. Specimens are found here which occur in the West Indies and the Andes.

Trees.—Scots firs, oak, beech, ash, silver birch, larch, and holly are the chief trees to be met with around Killarney, and in fact throughout all Kerry. The ash attains great size at Innisfallen Island, but it is an unsatisfactory tree. When age creeps on the damp climate affects it more than other trees. Remnants of the old forest growth are found in the stunted oak coppices in many a wild glen, and the cut away bogs all through the county display the remains of old forests in the hardened stumps and roots of fir trees bedded deep in the turf mould. This “bog wood” is cut up and sold to make excellent firing throughout the country houses and cottages of Kerry.

Insects.—Amongst the butterflies to be found in Kerry are the following, which however are not commonly met with: the “painted lady” and the “clouded yellow.” Of moths there are the

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“death’s head hawk moth,” the “eyed hawk moth,” and the “humming bird hawk moth,” and the “six spot barnet.” All of them are rare. There is no space to enumerate the common moths and butterflies which are met with in most places. A certain “spotted slug,” called (*Geomalacus maculosus*), which is only met with in Portugal and S. of Ireland, occurs in the district of Kenmare, round about the Clonee Lakes. Its colour is black or grey, with yellow spots. Castlemaine district is celebrated for being the locality where the Natterjack toad is found. This is the only species of toad found in the county.

In concluding these short remarks on the fauna and flora of Kerry it may be well to mention that no pike are found in any river or lough in the county.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

Railways.—The chief railway communication between the “Kingdom of Kerry” and the outer world is afforded by the Great Southern and Western Line. The double line, which runs direct from Dublin to Cork, branches off into a single line at Mallow, and runs by Lombardstown, Banteer, Millstreet, Rathmore, and Headford Junction to Killarney. At Headford a branch line runs through Glenflesk by Loo Bridge, Morley’s Bridge, and Kilgarvan to Kenmare, where it ends. From Killarney the line goes by Ballybrack and Farranfore Junction and Gortatea Junction to Tralee, the county town. A branch line goes from Farranfore by Molahiffe,

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Castlemaine, Milltown, and Killorglin to Caragh Lake, and thence by Glenbeigh and the "Mountain Stage" along the line of the cliffs to Kells, Cahirciveen, and Valencia Harbour. From Gortatea Junction a short line leads direct to Castleisland. North Kerry can be reached by a line of the Great Southern and Western Railway, which runs from Limerick by Rathkeale, Abbeyfeale, Listowel, Abbeydorney, and Ardfert, direct to Tralee. From Tralee a short branch line connected with the Great Southern Railway runs by the Spa to Fenit (7 m.), and from Listowel to Ballybunnion on the coast runs the "Lartigue Railway," a curious single rail concern, which apparently fulfils the needs demanded of it. A line of light railway called the "Tralee and Dingle" line runs for 31 m. down the long peninsula of Corkaguiny past Blennerville, Castlegregory Junction, Auniscaul, and Lispole to the terminus in Dingle. A branch of this small line runs from Castlegregory Junction to the village of that name, 7 m. distant.

The main line of the Great Southern and Western Railway goes through the flat country dividing North Kerry from S. and W., and the branch lines to Kenmare, Cahirciveen, and Valencia and Dingle follow very much the same routes as the old mail cars did in former years, climbing the hills and running through the valleys with astonishing pertinacity.

These lines, which do not in the least interfere with the scenery of the county, have been made with due regard to the requirements of the several districts; and apart from their enormous value to the agricultural and fishing population, they afford admirable facilities to visitors in arriving at the

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several centres of interest which are described in this Guide.

The journeys by the branch lines, apart from the main object of getting from one place to another easily, are full of interest to the traveller; for from the carriage window on all these lines beautiful views of the country are obtained along the entire route, and the railway journey becomes to all intents and purposes an important part of the tour. It is perhaps unnecessary to say that the pace at which the trains travel does not altogether preclude the calm and deliberate enjoyment of the scenery.

Roads.—The Kingdom of Kerry is extremely well supplied with roads, which for the most part are good ones, particularly in the western and southern parts of the county, where the traffic is comparatively light. A coach runs daily in summer time between Glengariffe, Kenmare, and Killarney by the excellent road which tops the ridge of the Cahahounagh Mountains at the “Tunnel” between Glengariffe and Kenmare, and winds down the slope of the hills to the latter place. From Kenmare the road goes up the side of the Dunkerron Mountains to the “Windy Gap,” and there descends gradually by Looseaunagh Lake and the woods of Derrycunihy and Muckcross to Killarney. A coach going the reverse way by this same route leaves Killarney for Glengariffe during what is called the tourist season, viz., the months of June, July, August, and September. During the summer season a coach goes from Kenmare to Parknasilla along a road which is as good as any in the county. A similar coach runs during the same period from Parknasilla daily to Sneem and Waterville, and on to Cahirciveen by a road which as far as

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Waterville can be classed as exceptionally good, and from Waterville to Cahirciveen indifferent. The above are the main coach routes in Kerry, which take visitors through a good part of the best scenery. But the roads traversed by these coaches are by no means the only roads to be recommended as suited for driving or cycling.

Cycling.—A good road leads direct from Killarney to Tralee, with a branch at Farranfore which goes to Castleisland and thence round to Tralee. Another road from Farranfore, fairly good, leads W. by Fieries village, Milltown, and Killorglin, and thence to Caragh. From Caragh a road with a good surface goes by Rossbeigh, "Mountain Stage," and Kells (following for the most part the line of railway) to Cahirciveen. A road much to be recommended is the one leading from Cahirciveen around by Ballinskelligs and St Finan's Glen. The road leading W. from Killarney to Glencar, past Beaufort and Churchtown, is quite respectable, and in parts excellent. From Glencar the hill road by what is called the "Devil's Elbow" leads along the E. side of Caragh Lake to the hotel and railway station at Caragh, with a branch near Glounaguillegh School leading back eastwards to Killorglin. A good deal of walking must be done along this route, as the hills are steep. There is a good road from Killarney by way of Killaha and the "Robber's Glen" and Glenflesk to Kilgarvan and Kenmare. This road follows practically the line of the river Flesk as far as Loo Bridge, and from Morley's Bridge runs down the Valley of the Roughty River 15 m. to Kenmare. Two miles beyond Farranfore, on the direct road

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to Tralee, a branch road leads W. along the base of the Slieve Mish Mountains to Castlemaine, Kill, Inch, and Auniscaul, where it joins the main road direct from Tralee to Dingle. This is a fair road to travel, and on a clear day affords a good view of mountain and sea.

Only moderate praise can be given to the first ten miles of the road between Tralee and Dingle, but after passing Castlegregory Junction, going either direct by the main road or by the roundabout route *viâ* Connor Hill, the surface improves as the traveller pushes W. The road to Dingle round Sleah Head, and even as far as Ballyferriter, is, however, excellent, and if it is not as good from Ballyferriter along to the pass of Knockavrogeen excuses must be made for the uneven surface in the lack of suitable material for mending. The main road from Tralee to Listowel is excellent, but as much cannot be said for the roads leading to Ballyheige, Ardfert, and Abbeydorney. The traffic on these roads is so great and they lie so low that it is difficult to keep the surface in a perfect state of repair, or in that state of repair which pleases cyclists and motorists. The cross roads and bye-ways in Kerry are too numerous to mention in detail, and only those will be enumerated which cross the mountains by the well-defined passes.

Mountain Passes.—Of these mountain passes there are :—

(1) The “Windy Gap,” between Killarney and Kenmare.

(2) “Moll’s Gap,” between Killarney and Sneem.

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(3) Balloughbeama, between Kenmare and Glencar.

(4) Coomakista, between Sneem, Caherdaniel and Waterville.

(5) Balloughisheen, between Waterville and Glencar.

(6) The Connor Hill pass, between Dingle, Cloghane, and Castlegregory.

The roads over these principal passes are all good, and though the ascents and descents are in some instances steep and impossible to ride on a bicycle in places, there is nothing to stop a cyclist who is capable of walking for some little distance. Motor cars can be used on all the above passes. Other passes occur in different parts of the county, where the roads, though suitable for pedestrians and possible for cars, cannot be recommended as ideal roads to cyclists or motorists.

These passes are :—

(1) The Gap of Dunloe.

(2) Windy Gap, leading from Glencar to Glenbeigh and Caragh.

(3) The pass which leads from Foley's Glen, near Tralee, to Castlemaine, and is called Gloun-skeehy.

(4) Caherbla, the pass which goes from Castlegregory Junction up the Finglas River, and over the hills to Keel and Inch.

(5) Marhin pass, leading from Ventry to Dunquin.

(6) The pass which leads through the glen of the Owenreagh and on to Lough Brin, in Killarney district.

All these can be walked or ridden on pony back or driven over in a car with care.

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Lastly, there are the tracks over the mountains, which are inaccessible except to pedestrians. Of these may be mentioned the following :—

(1) The footway which leads over the hills from the head of Lough Currane, near Waterville, to Staigue Fort and Sneem.

(2) The old road which runs far up the Cloghane valley till its track is almost lost in the zigzag ascent of Mullochveal, to appear again a grassy way leading to the main road at Glens, near Dingle.

(3) The old forest road from Derrycunihy Chapel to Kenmare.

(4) The footpath which leads the wayfarer through the beautiful glen of Keppoch at the head of Lough Guitane, and on to near Kilgarvan.

(5) The faintly indicated foot road leading through the gorge of Auniscaul by the lake side, and on over the hills to "Letteragh," the district on the north side of the barony of Corkaguiny.

(6) The road which leads up the Black Valley, ("Coom Duv,") to the Brida Valley and Glencar.

There are roads through lesser passes, such as that which goes by Glounaneenty and round the back of the Stacks Mountains to Kilduff, and thence to Tralee. Only the most attractive passes, and those which will present themselves as most possible to tourists, have here been noted.

In other parts of this small work some attention has been given to the less noted roads and passes when dealing with particular tours from the various centres.

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VI. INDUSTRIES

The county of Kerry is essentially an agricultural and fishing district, and the chief employment of its people is in farming, whilst the principal towns are markets for the agricultural produce. Cattle, sheep on the hills, butter-making, and fishing—these are the means of living of the majority of the people of Kerry. The numerous creameries, co-operative and proprietary, which in recent years have sprung up all through the county, even in the most remote parts, have enabled farmers to realise better prices for their products; and though the increase of these creameries may be fraught with some danger to the wellbeing of the land, there is no doubt that up to the present they have been a success. Of late years the breed of cattle has greatly improved, and if the same cannot be said of the horses it is owing to the introduction of a poorer stock, without those qualities which made Kerry horses so excellent in the past. The strain which produced the Liberator to win the “Grand National” is gone, and in its place is a breed possessing the by no means admirable qualities of the Suffolk Punch and Hackney.

Fishing.—Besides agriculture pure and simple, there is a sort of transitional employment in parts of the county, where the people are half-fishermen, half-farmers. These are met with all around the coast from Kerry Head to the Blasket Islands, and from the latter place to Kenmare. The hardy dwellers on the shores of Kerry in their frail-

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looking canoes reap a rich harvest in the herring and mackerel seasons. The Congested Districts Board has helped the fishing industry enormously by building piers and supplying boats and gear and nets on favourable terms, and there is every hope that this class of fisherfolk will become as well-to-do as their benefactors wish. In addition to these half-fisher class there are the fishermen proper, whose twenty-ton yawls lie in Dingle Harbour, and who make trawling and fishing in general their business in life. These regular fishermen are limited in number, and exist chiefly at Dingle and Fenit. The Dingle fishermen are some of the finest and best seamen to be met with in Ireland.

Convent and Cottage Industries.—Next there are the convent industries, which consist chiefly in lace-making, knitting, and embroidery. The beautiful work done by the girls in the convents of Killarney, Kenmare, and Cahirciveen is worthy of great praise, and will amply repay a visit of inspection. The cottage industries consist of weaving the coarse homespun thread in the western districts about Dingle, Cloghane, and Waterville. This hand-loom weaving is on the decline, as the larger mills in Tralee and Kenmare have had the effect of starving out the cottage industry. But there are signs of a revival of the trade, and fresh interest appears to be taken in it by the Board of Technical Instruction. The colours of the various wools are obtained from dyes made from the wild flowers and the lichens and mosses found in the different districts. In Killarney a flourishing carving school was established some years ago by Lady Kenmare, and the perfection of design and

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accuracy of execution shows the deftness of the Kerry workers.

Mining and Quarrying.—Of mining there is none at the present time. Formerly there were copper mines in various parts of the county, and of late years sundry efforts have been made to “prospect” for further mining operations, but without much result. Quarrying is of the elementary type necessary for the building of cottages and houses, and the mending of roads. Years ago there was a large industry connected with the slate quarries in Valencia Island, but of late years this has ceased. The quarries overlooking the sea remain gaunt witness to the success of the past.

VII. HISTORY

The early history of the “Kingdom of Kerry” is so hidden in mystery and legend that there is no possibility of accurate detail being obtained till the early Christian period is reached. According to Dr Smith, whose book, published in the 18th century, is a classic of great value, the sea-board of the county is mentioned by Ptolemy, and it seems clear that the Milesian emigration from Spain affected Kerry more strongly than any other county in Ireland. The former “barony” of Lixnaw and the place of that name which has survived all changes is supposed to have been originally called after the “Luceni,” a tribe which settled on the S. bank of the Shannon.

As in England and Scotland, legend alone is available for the early records of the people. In Kerry this source is prolific of much that is interest-

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ing. There is the legend of a certain Queen Scots, the daughter of Pharaoh and wife of Milidh the Milesian, according to the "Annals of the Four Masters," whose grave is still shown in a wooded glen near Tralee; there are stories of Finn Mac Coul and a warrior named Colman which the boatmen of Killarney are fond of recounting; and there is the legend of Curoi of Daire, who carried away Blanaid, the beautiful maid, from the island of Mana, to Caherconree, where, after a time, she treacherously betrayed him into the hands of Cuchullin. There are legends of the great battle of Ventry and the doings of "Conn of the hundred fights," and other heroes of the same period. But from the 6th century a more defined idea can be formed, and the old ruined shrines and beehive huts are records of the greatest value to emphasise the history of St Brandon, St Finan, and other saints whose lives were spent in claiming Ireland for the Cross.

When the period of the coming of the Norman warriors is reached the historic records rest on a firmer foundation. The tribal wars between the O'Sullivans, O'Donoghues, O'Connors, and MacCarthys widen out into broader vistas, and a fairly defined path runs through the whole. At that time, *i.e.* about the year 1172, the present county of Kerry was held by the sept of O'Connors in the N., MacCarthy More, O'Sullivan More, and O'Donoghue in the centre, whilst O'Sullivan *Beare*, the great chieftain of West Cork, held a strip of South Kerry along the shores of the Kenmare River. There were also minor septs or clans—O'Talveys and M'Gillicuddys, O'Connells and O'Mahonys, the latter being an offshoot of

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the O'Sullivan More, to which clan they owed allegiance as their immediate lord. Both the O'Sullivan More and the M'Gilycuddy clan claimed descent from the King of Munster, Oilill Olum, who died in 234 A.D. But these minor clans were all dominated by the great MacCarthy and O'Donoghue chiefs. In fact, the MacCarthy More was practically the sovereign of the Kingdom of Kerry.

Then Raymond le Gros, a follower of Henry II. of England, appeared on the scene, invited by the MacCarthy More to avenge him on his own son, who had rebelled. The barony of Clanmaurice was the reward which Raymond obtained for his assistance, and his son Maurice was the ancestor of the Earls of Kerry. But other soldiers of fortune came with Raymond le Gros, and notably the FitzGerald; and the history of Kerry was practically the history of this family from that time down to the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Originally of Florentine extraction, where the arms of the Gherardini are still to be seen, these bold warriors came to this land in the train of the Norman king. The world was restless in those days, and the constant battles between the rival factions in Florence sent alternately one party or another into exile.

From Gerald FitzOtho, Governor of Pembroke Castle, who married Nesta, daughter of the Prince of South Wales, four branches of the Geraldines descended to form four distinct families. One line, through the Lords of Offaly, went to form the house of Kildare; a second line, through Raymond le Gros, went through the Earls of Kerry, Fitz-Maurice, to the present house of Lansdowne; a

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third went through John of Callan, who obtained grants of land from Edward I. to form the ill-fated house of Desmond ; whilst a fourth, springing from the same source by a second marriage, still exists in the families of the Knight of Kerry and Knight of Glin.

But it is with the branch of the Geraldines who formed the unfortunate Desmond family that the history of Kerry is most concerned. It may have been that the beautiful colouring of Kerry, so like Italy, made the "Gherardini" feel at home in Ireland. The fact, however, remains that they stuck their roots deep in the country and became rapidly "more Irish than the Irish." Their ranks, it is said, were from time to time recruited by fresh Florentine blood, particularly in 1304, when the Cavalcanti were expelled from that city, and with them their followers the Gherardini. The Geraldine reign in Kerry was marked by perpetual war between the Irish chieftain MacCarthy and the Desmond FitzGerald, and in 1261 at Callan, near Kenmare, a great battle was fought which resulted in a complete victory for MacCarthy More. But shortly afterwards the MacCarthys quarrelled amongst themselves, and the FitzGerald prevailed over them and kept the overlordship for many years, and became the great rulers of the Palatine County of Kerry and Desmond.

I should here state that in the old days the river Maine divided what is known as the county of Kerry into "Kerry," the western portion, and "Desmond," the eastern portion of the present county. Far removed from English influence, and having become "more Irish than the Irish themselves," the brave and gallant Geraldines

ruled Kerry and Desmond as though it was an independent principality, and the Earls of Desmond exercised almost royal prerogatives. This state of semi-independence was, so to speak, winked at whilst the English kings were struggling with the barons or busy with their wars abroad. But when the Wars of the Roses and the Battle of Towton (the bloodiest fight ever waged on English soil) had destroyed feudalism in England, the Tudor monarchs turned their attention to Ireland with a view to consolidating their dominions, and this epoch marked the beginning of the end for the Desmonds in Kerry.

Mary Tudor had "planted" the district of Leix, and called the area "King's County" and "Queen's County," after Philip II. of Spain and herself, and further "plantations" were in contemplation when Elizabeth came to the throne. But it was to Munster that this great queen chiefly turned her eyes, for Sir Henry Sidney, the father of the brave Sir Philip Sidney who died on the field of Zutphen, had written that there could be no peace till the palatinate jurisdiction of Desmond was reduced. As a check to the Geraldine power, the queen had, in the year 1565, created MacCarthy More Earl of Glencar, and in 1576 Sir William Drury marched with a small force of 120 men to Kerry for the purpose of enforcing the Queen's writ in the palatinate. The Earl of Desmond offered him hospitality in Tralee, and to this place Sir William Drury marched. As he neared the town he was met by a large horde of "kernes" and the folk called in the picturesque language of the age "the Wild Evil Children of the Wood." They were the followers

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of the Earl of Desmond, and they were all armed. Drury mistook this demonstration for a sign of treacherous hostility, and promptly charged the opposing forces, who fled to the woods which at that time clothed the mountain slopes and the plains almost to the town of Tralee. Eleanor, Countess of Desmond, met Drury at the gates of the Castle, and with tears besought his pardon for the wild demonstration. She assured him that it was all merely a hunting party assembled in his honour, and Drury appears to have been satisfied with her explanation, and accepted her son as a hostage for his father's loyalty. But Gerald of Desmond, in spite of all warnings, still continued his intrigues with the enemies of England. "*Quem deus vult perdere prius dementat*"—never was this so forcibly shown as in the case of Gerald, Earl of Desmond. Spain was the great rival of England at this time, and in order to gain the aid of Philip of Spain and to retain their rights and privileges as palatine rulers, the Desmond chiefs raised the cry that the Catholic Church was in danger.

Up to 1570 the religious movement had not caused any very great stir in Ireland. In the English Pale, it is true, the great chiefs and the Church had followed much the same lines as in England; but the mass of the people in Ireland remained, as ever, attached to the Catholic Church. The friars and monks who had been turned out of their monasteries preached throughout the land and kept the faith alive. There was no active oppression, and no very serious attempt to interfere with doctrines on the part of Queen Elizabeth during the early part of her reign.

But from the moment the division became marked and Elizabeth was excommunicated it became a struggle between Spain and England, Philip II. and Elizabeth, between Catholic and Protestant.

Thomas, the "Black" Earl of Ormond, was the great rival of the Earl of Desmond. He had been educated with Edward VI. in England, and was a brave soldier and a faithful servant of Elizabeth. He it was who was sent to reduce the palatine county of Kerry to order, and he did it in this way.

One column swept down the Iveragh side of Dingle Bay as far as Valencia, whilst two columns, one to the N. and the other to the S. of the Slieve Mish Mountains, operated in the fertile barony of Corkaguiny, burning and destroying the crops, and driving all the cattle to Ventry. The country was left desolate. Ruined houses, homeless people, and stark corpses of defeated kernes marked the track of the "Black Earl." This was early in the year 1580; and as if this raid of the "*Thierna Dubh*" was not enough trouble, eight hundred Spaniards and Italians must needs land at Smerwick with Dr Saunders and a consecrated banner. Having established themselves at Fort Del Ore on the shores of Smerwick Harbour, they raised the hopes of the Geraldine clan, and soon the war cry, "Papa aboo," announced them in rebellion once more.

Lord Grey de Wilton, the new Viceroy, fresh from his defeat in Glenmalure, County Wicklow, came swiftly to Kerry, and with him came Walter Raleigh, then a captain in the queen's service, and Edmund Spenser, who afterwards wrote the *Faery Queen*, and Edward Denny—"Ned Denny," of

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the despatches of the day, whose family afterwards became one of the foremost Kerry families, and on whose tomb in Waltham Abbey is written—

“ A Courtier of the chamber,
A soldier in the field,
Whose tongue could never flatter,
And whose heart could never yield.”

Admiral Winter, too, came round by sea with the fleet, including the little *Revenge* of famous memory, and co-operated with the land forces. But three days finished the business, and then came that ugly incident of the killing of the garrison which has cast a slur on the fair names of some heroes. All this, however, can be seen in “Westward Ho” and “Maelcho,” books which are known now to every one.

After the taking of Fort Del Ore the old Earl of Desmond was a hunted fugitive with a price on his head. For three years he led a wild roving life with a few followers, raiding the castles of those of his clan who had made their submission to the English. Many a time he was called on to submit, but as often refused, saying that he “would rather desert God than his men.” Eleanor, Countess of Desmond, seems to have shared her husband’s hardship most bravely, and on one occasion when keeping Christmas near Killmullock, he was “sore beset” and had to fly and stand up to his neck in an icy cold river “with his lady” to escape the English soldiers. But at last the end came in the wood of Glounaneenty near Tralee. Surrounded and unable to escape, the Earl of Desmond begged that his life might be spared. But a ruffian called Kelly struck off his head, which was sent

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to the Traitor's Gate in the Tower of London. His followers carried his body at night to the little churchyard of "Kilnanonaim" or "Church of the Name," near Castleisland. So ended the futile attempt of this last Earl of Desmond to keep his feudal power and palatine rights in the face of advancing civilisation. The story is not uncommon. Scotland shows examples somewhat similar and as pathetic.

After the quelling of this rebellion Kerry had rest and peace for a number of years. Systematic "undertakers" and commissioners appeared on the scene and took possession of large slices of the forfeited estates; Sir Valentine Browne, the Herberts, Sir Edward Denny, and many others established their footing in the county, and as was the case in England, the feudal castles gave way to the country houses, and the feudal lords began to merge into the country gentlemen. Then came the defeat and wrecking of the Spanish Armada and the rise of England as a great sea power. It was just before the days of the Spanish Armada that Philip II. of Spain paid £1000 into the Irish Treasury for permission to fish on the Irish coast. Sir Humphrey Gilbert reported to Queen Elizabeth that 600 Spanish vessels were engaged in this fishing trade, and he mentioned the Blaskets as one of the centres of this trade.

Everything seems to have gone on fairly well in Kerry from the year 1588 to 1598. In the year 1598, however, O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, rose in rebellion, and Sir Henry Bagnal, who was sent to fight him, was badly defeated at Callan near Armagh. Tyrone then marched into Munster and proclaimed James, son of Thomas

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FitzGerald, and grandson of the 15th Earl, Earl of Desmond. The southern Geraldines rose in rebellion. The White Knight, the Knight of Glin, and FitzMaurice Earl of Kerry, joined hands with the O'Donoghues and MacCarthys and O'Sullivans in support of the "Sugane" Earl, or the "Earl of Straw," as the word implies. This was a serious rebellion. The Irish were drilled and disciplined, and they were commanded by many officers who had served the Queen and afterwards deserted. Moreover, they were well supplied with arms and ammunition. One of the leaders of the revolt in Kerry was Florence MacCarthy, who had married a daughter of the late Earl of Glencar, and had assumed the title of MacCarthy More. He was captured by the President of Munster, Sir George Carew, and then asked that he might be created Earl of Glencar and get 300 men to defend his country. But no notice was taken of this request, and Sir George Carew only released him on condition that he kept the peace. The Sugane Earl took the field with 500 of the men of Kerry, and was joined by Lord Kerry and a good many disaffected persons. The Lord President, well knowing the great affection which the people of Kerry had for the Geraldines, caused James the son of Gerald, the luckless 16th Earl, to be created Earl of Desmond by patent. He had been in the custody of the English Government since 1579, when his mother delivered him up as a hostage to Sir William Drury for his father's fidelity. But he was a Protestant, and so the plan of detaching the followers of the "Sugane Earl" by this means failed.

The Lord President, Sir George Carew, estab-

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lished his headquarters at Carrigfoyle in N. Kerry, and from this celebrated stronghold he sent the dashing and gallant Sir Charles Wilmot to surprise Lixnaw. From there Wilmot rode with fifty horse to the castle of Sir Edward Denny in Tralee, which had been taken by the forces of the Sugane Earl of Desmond. Sir Charles defeated the Geraldine forces, who fled in disorder to the Slieve Mish Mountains, and then turned his attention to the relief of Liscahane Castle, which was bravely held by Walter Talbot. This warfare dragged on through the year 1600, and its fluctuations are rather difficult to follow.

We read that the fortifications of Beale, then called Beaulieu, were destroyed by Patrick, Lord Kerry, who shortly afterwards died of grief at seeing Lixnaw in the possession of the English. Then we read that the Knight of Kerry was granted protection by Sir Charles Wilmot for his loyalty in refusing to allow the Sugane Earl into his castle at Dingle, and that his loyalty cost him dear and exposed him to annoyance from the followers of the Sugane Earl of Desmond. About the end of August 1600 Maurice Stack, a brave man who had assisted in the defence of Lischane, was invited to dine at the Castle of Beale or Beaulieu by the wife of the Lord Kerry, and was treacherously murdered by some officers with "skeins," and his body thrown from a high window into the courtyard. The brother of the Lady Kerry—the Earl of Thomond—was so disgusted by this treacherous deed that he refused to see his sister again, and she shortly afterwards died.

Soon after this a French ship, laden with wine, provisions, and ammunition, came to Dingle, and

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these commodities were sold to the rebels, whereof a complaint was made to the French king by the English Ambassador. Sir Charles Wilmot besieged Ardfort, and by constant pressure compelled the mock Earl of Desmond to leave the country. Florence MacCarthy, though he was under the protection of the English Government, continued to intrigue with the rebels, and in secret purchased arms and ammunition and solicited aid; but at last, when his double dealing became known, a rival was set up in Daniel MacCarthy, who was allowed to bear the title of MacCarthy More, and was given the protection of the English.

At the end of 1600 the revolt, as far as Kerry was concerned, was almost at an end. Lord Kerry and the Knight of Glin had been forced to fly; Listowel Castle was the last stronghold in Kerry to hold out against Sir Charles Wilmot; the mock Earl of Desmond had left the county of Kerry, and the reward of £1000 for his capture soon tempted the "White Knight" to deliver him over into the hands of his enemies. He was sent to the Tower to die in May 1601. Florence MacCarthy followed him there in June of the same year, and most of the inhabitants of Kerry had pardons out and were in a fair way to settle down. But in September 1601 a Spanish fleet with 5000 men arrived in Kinsale. The inhabitants of Kerry remained quiet; but a second fleet arriving in Castlehaven was too much for them. All the pardoned people, including the Knight of Kerry, joined in revolt under O'Donnel, who came down S. from Ulster with the war-cry "O'Donnel Aboo." Carrigfoyle was betrayed to the Spaniards and the garrison slaughtered, and the English settlers

were again driven from their homes. The whole county of Kerry was up in arms once more. But it was all futile as ever. The Spaniards were defeated at Kinsale, and Sir Charles Wilmot was sent again to restore order in the Kingdom of Kerry. He besieged the castle of Lixnaw and cut the garrison off from water, and eventually got possession of the place. Then he marched to Castlemaine and relieved the garrison there, besieged by the rebels. Then he sent half his men into the Knight of Kerry's country with orders to plunder and drive in all the cattle as far as Dingle. With the remainder of his men he marched after this force and met the Knight of Kerry with about 300 followers drawn up in a bog at Ballinahow, where the cavalry could not manœuvre. Sir Charles Wilmot's horsemen dismounted and fought on foot, and after a stubborn fight the knight's men were defeated, and Sir Charles took and burnt the castles of Rahinane and Castlegregory. New orders were given to despoil the country once more—the fair land, well filled with corn, which was esteemed one of the best inhabited counties in Munster. The loyal inhabitants were deported, and the rebels left no means of subsistence; thus throughout Iveragh and Desmond and Kerry proper the forces of Sir Charles Wilmot marched, as the forces of the "Black Earl" had marched twenty years before, till at length all was reduced to order and the Knight of Kerry and Daniel MacCarthy More made their submission. In 1604 Sir Charles Wilmot had made a complete end of the rebellion, and from that date to 1641 there was little or no disturbance in Kerry.

After all this record of fighting and turmoil it is

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pleasant to read that the Friary of Lough Leane, near Killarney, was repaired in 1604. In 1611 the town of Tralee received its Charter. In 1615 Lord Kerry made a humble submission to King James for the offence of himself and his father, and was pardoned, and his estates confirmed to him by letters patent. The FitzMaurices became ardent loyalists, so that when in 1641 Florence MacCarthy assumed the title of Governor of Kerry, and raised troops for the confederate Catholics, Warham St Leger, the President of Munster, appointed Lord Kerry governor of the county on behalf of the king.

When the revolt broke out this Lord Kerry only got arms for 124 men, and made an unfortunate selection of the officers for his forces—Pierce Ferriter of Castle Sybil, near Ballyferriter, Donagh Macgillycuddy, O'Donoghue of Glenflesk, MacElligott of Bally MacElligott, and Walter Hussey of Castlegregory. All these men deserted to the side of the confederate Irish and assisted in harassing the English settlers. These English settlers were in sore straits in 1641. Castlemaine was taken by Daniel MacCarthy, and on the march of the confederate forces to Tralee, many of the gentry went off to join the Lord President St Leger, whilst others fortified their strong places and prepared to resist.

Two names are prominent in the history of these times for gallant conduct. One Colonel David Crosbie, who held on to Ballingarry Fort for four years, and endured innumerable hardships and privations in his brave defence; and the other Sir Thomas Harris, the defender of the castle of Tralee. He had been entrusted with the

keeping of this castle by Sir Edward Denny, and all the attempts of the confederates to seduce him from his allegiance proved unavailing. This investment of Tralee Castle was a sad episode. One hundred and five persons sought refuge within the walls, and though the garrison was short of ammunition and had to drink filthy water, the brave defenders held out for six months, till they were absolutely destitute of ammunition and provisions—then they surrendered, but not Sir Thomas Harris, who, worn out by anxiety and hardship, died before the capitulation. Then King Charles, who had sacrificed Strafford, made peace with the confederate Catholics, and the rebels of yesterday became the Royalists of to-day and joined the king's forces against Cromwell and the Parliament.

In 1645 John Baptiste Rinuncini, Archbishop of Fermo and legate of the Pope, arrived in Kenmare River. Admiral Blake was on his track and his frigate barely escaped capture, being chased by an English ship which failed to capture the foreigner owing, it is said, to the "cook room of the man-of-war taking fire." The Parliamentary General Ludlow marched to Kerry after the defeat of Lord Muskerry at Knocknichashky, in County Cork, and finding that the Irish General had established himself at Ross Castle near Killarney, one of the strongest fortresses in possession of the Irish, and was receiving food and supplies from the opposite force of Lough Leane, he made plans to dislodge him. He cut the garrison off from the mainland, and had boats sent round to Castlemaine and conveyed up the Laune River by hand.

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An old tradition said that Ross Castle would never be taken till ships should "swim upon the lake." So when the first boat was seen the garrison offered to surrender on terms which took a fortnight to draw up.

In the days of William III. and King James, the forces of the latter held Kerry till August 1691, and Tralee was again burnt on the approach of General Ginkel. Ginkel ordered Captains Navarre and O'Loughnane, who had ordered the burning, to be hanged. But their lives were saved by the intercession of Colonel Denny. An action near Lixnaw seems to have been the only fighting which took place in Kerry during the Revolution of 1688. After it was all over, there was the attainder of the adherents of King James, and amongst others the Lord Kenmare of the day lost his estates. They were, however, eventually restored, and Kerry settled down to the humdrum life of the 18th century. Its chivalrous and romantic history ended with the Stuarts. But somehow when travelling through the county it seems as if the life and spirit of the 16th century were nearer the heart of Kerry than any intervening period.

Even yet are heard the tales of the Spaniards, of Fort Del Ore, and of the Armada, as though the events connected with them occurred yesterday. The "Earl of Desmond's pipers" are heard in the wailing of wintry gales, and old, half-ruined, forgotten churches, abbeys, and castles speak eloquently of the days when the great Queen Elizabeth broke the power of the feudal lords of the County Palatine of Kerry.

It is a mistake to suppose that during the stirring days of the 16th and 17th centuries there was

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absolute right on one side or the other, or that one side was more or less brutal in its methods, viewed in the light of modern ideas, than another. Deplorable events occurred which shock the modern reader; but such were not confined to any one locality, country, or party. Wars were more savage then than now. But even in the midst of the cruelty and hardships there are to be found many bright instances of personal generosity and kindness where the human element overshadows the horrors of war, and it is quite certain that a writer like Sir Walter Scott could find as good material for a chivalrous, high-spirited romance amidst the records of Kerry as ever Scotland could afford.

VIII. ETHNOLOGY AND LOCAL NAMES

The county of Kerry, like the rest of Ireland, was originally inhabited by a race of Turanian origin, which gave way before various immigrant Celts from Britain and the West of Europe. The Milesians, being the strongest and most warlike, finally gave the general character to the people prior to the Norman invasion. A great many of the territorial names are tribe names, derived from kings and chiefs who held sway at various periods from somewhere about 300 B.C. to the 9th century of our era. Professor Joyce points out that the words "dun," "rath," "lis," "caher," "carn," and "cloon" are of pagan origin, and are at least as old as the commencement of the Christian era. The "Annals of the Four Masters" derive the name of the Slieve Mish Mountains near Tralee from "Mis," the daughter of Muireadh the son of Caireadh.

ETHNOLOGY AND LOCAL NAMES

A great deal of the early ethnological history of the county of Kerry is shrouded in mystery, but it may be safe to say that the Milesian Celts, having conquered the Firbolgs and the Tuatha da Danaan, continued to prevail throughout the county till the Norman invasion. These Milesians probably from time to time received fresh immigrants from Western Europe, and particularly Spain, and the fusion between the Norman invaders and themselves came about quite naturally. This immigrant Hispano-Celtic and Norman population brought into being the finest population to be found in Ireland.

The Danish incursions, which affected other parts of Ireland and England, do not appear to have left any lasting mark on the shores of Kerry. But since the Norman days many immigrants from England have mixed with the Milesian and Norman population, so that, whilst still retaining its particular characteristics, the ethnology of Kerry has undergone imperceptible changes.

When the early ecclesiastical period begins about the beginning of the 5th century, we are on firmer ground with regard to history, and St Brandon becomes a very real and living personality. This great saint, born near Tralee in the year 484, was of the race of Ciar, a Milesian warrior who has left a memorial of himself in the present names of the county of Kerry. St Brandon studied with St Jarlath of Tuam and St Finnian of Clonard, and during the course of his life visited Brittany, where he founded a monastery. He is also said to have been the first discoverer of America, but of this a mention will be found in Chapter IX. further on.

All the names of places, such as "kill," "temple," "donagh," "Aglish," are of ecclesiastical origin, and usually connected with the name of some saint. These names are all said by Professor Joyce (whose book on "Irish Names and Places" is a classic) to have arisen from the 5th to the 8th and 9th centuries, and it is easy when going through the country and remembering this to approximately fix the dates of ruins and places.

The process of name-forming went on through the 12th, 13th, and 14th centuries, and some names can be still found derived from English and Norman families who settled in the county from time to time down to the 17th century. As an instance of this the name "Killeentierna," meaning the "little church of the Earl" (of Desmond), may be quoted. Kerry, with its mixture of Milesian, of Spanish, Florentine (Geraldine), English, and even German blood, possesses perhaps the most attractive race to be found in Ireland, and a traveller cannot fail to be struck by the peculiar character of the people of Kerry. The grave, well-bred courtesy, the physical beauty of form and face, and the bold bearing speak of this fusion. The men of the coast-line, tall, stalwart sons of the sea, are a fine, hardy, brave race, who would make some of the best soldiers and sailors in the empire. The lines by the Irish poet Thomas Davis seem to be particularly applicable to this short notice of the ethnology of Kerry:—

"Here came the brown Phœnician,
The man of trade and toil;
Here came the proud Milesian
A hungering for spoil,

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And the Firbolg and the Cymry
And the hard, enduring Dane,
And the lion lords of Normandy,
With the Saxons in their train.

And oh, it were a gallant deed
To show before mankind,
How every race and every creed
Might be by love combined.
Might be combined, nor yet forget
The fountains whence they rose,
As swelled by many a rivulet
The stately Shannon flows."

The spirit of these lines is breathing throughout the land, and some day the desire expressed will be fully realised.

IX. ANTIQUITIES

The antiquities of the county of Kerry are perhaps as interesting as any to be found in Ireland. The stones, the buildings, and the names of various places form a book in which can be read, page by page, the history of the county.

Ogham Stones.—To begin with, there are the "Ogham Stones" with their primitive lettering decipherable by the learned, which can be seen in the cave of Dunloe near Killarney, and at Kilmalchedar, Ballintaggart, Kinnard, Ballineesteenig, and many other places in the barony of Corkaguiny. There are over eighty of these inscribed stones in Kerry, and their origin and history has been the cause of much discussion amongst antiquarians.

The Book of Ballymote, which is dated A.D. 1370, mentions these Ogham Stones, and from this book was taken the first key to the deciphering of the letters. The late Dr Graves, Bishop of Limerick,

tested this key by a system of mathematics in which recurring letters in a large number of words played a part, and he found it correct. According to the Book of Ballymote the name "Ogham" is derived from Ogma, son of Elatan, King of Ireland, the reason given for the Ogham writing being the desire of the learned to have a language different from that used by rustics.

The Ogham Craobh or Tree Ogham is the one most commonly found in Ireland, and consists of a central line with shorter lines cut at right angles or diagonally across it. The meaning of each sign is determined by its being across or above or below the central line. In most "Ogham" monuments the corner of some square stone block forms the trunk, the letters being cut on both faces of the stone. The date of "Ogham" stones was probably pre-Christian, but extended into the Christian period, as crosses are often found on the stones.

Forts or Cahers.—The great stone forts or "cahers" found in Kerry are said to mark the highest point of the heroic ages and the dawn of the earliest Christian history in the county. The best examples of these "cahers" may be seen at "Staigue Fort," near Sneem, at Caherdaniel, between the village and the top of Coomakista Pass, at Cahergal near Cahirciveen, and at Dunbeg and Dunmore, meaning the "little" and the "great" fort respectively in the fascinating region to the W. of Dingle.

Churches.—The early history of the Celtic Church is written plain and clear in the beehive cells and stone-roofed oratories which may be seen on Skellig Michael, at Gallerus, and all about the neighbourhood of Kilmalchedar, whilst the latter

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period of that Church can be studied in the Romanesque architecture to be found in many a lonely little chapel and oratory throughout the county. The best examples of this Romanesque architecture can be seen in the ruined shrine on Church Island in Lough Currane near Waterville, at Innisfallen Island, and Aghadoe near Killarney, and at Kilmalchedar in the neighbourhood of Dingle. The round tower at Rattoo, in N. Kerry, belongs to this period, and may be said to date from the days of Charlemagne, when the continent of Europe affected, to a considerable extent, the trend of church architecture in this remote corner of Ireland.

Connected with this early period of the Celtic Church are the holy wells and legend and historical records of the saints who moulded the age by their lives and examples. St Brandon, St Finan, St Crohane, St Malchedor are all tangible historical figures, round whom the mists of legends have gathered, but who, nevertheless, present a very real personality to all who tread in their footprints at the present time. And from the Celtic Church history it is easy to pass by gradual stages (with no very sharp dividing line) to the later history of the Church and the land—reading the story as we go along in the architecture. At Aghadoe are seen the crumbling walls of an old Anglo-Norman castle, probably one of the first built in Kerry. In Ardfert and Ballinskelligs are seen the Romanesque merging into the early pointed Gothic, the transition between what is sometimes called the Norman and Early English style.

Abbeys.—At Muckross and Ardfert Abbey the later 15th century architecture can be traced, not

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indeed with the wealth of decoration which marks the period in France and England, but sufficiently clear to fix approximately the date. Newer buildings grew up side by side with, or became merged into, older ones, the site being retained, and the architecture becoming, in some cases, a kind of patchwork. Ireland went through so many storms in early days, and there were so many burnings and destroyings of existing buildings, that it can hardly be wondered at that there is not that uniformity which is so commonly met with in England.

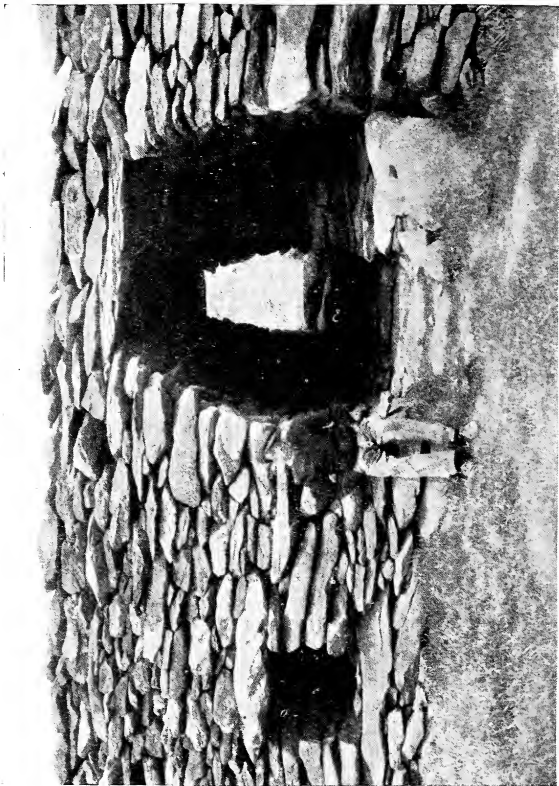
The old castles of Ross near Killarney, Ballycarbery near Cahirciveen, and Rahinane near Dingle, all date in their present ruined state to the Anglo-Norman period of history. They have been battered and burnt in the past, but enough still survives to tell a story—a story which ends with the days of Elizabeth in some cases, and with the Revolution of 1688 in others. The dim outlines of “Fort-del-Ore,” so famous in the days of Elizabeth, are still to be seen, and people talk to this day of the doings of the soldiers under Lord Grey, and point out the place where the English batteries pounded the fort.

When the Desmond wars, and the abortive rising under O'Neill and O'Donnel, had left Kerry comparatively desolate; when the MacCarthys, the Geraldines, the O'Donoghues, Mahonys, and O'Sullivans had succumbed to the onward march of progress, and feudalism was no more, English families appeared in the county,—Dennys, Brownes, Blennerhassetts, Crosbies—and taking up the forfeited lands or purchasing them, became the great landowners and squires of latter-day Kerry. Many of these families



OLD GRAVEYARD, SKELIG MICHAEL





DUNBEG FORT

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united, by marriage, the old Irish families with the newer English ones, to make their descendants "*Hibernieis ipsis Hiberniores.*"

The houses and homes of these later English settlers took the place of the old castles and keeps of former times, and the continuity of history was unbroken. Perhaps the most interesting example of this continuity may be seen in the Franciscan Friary at Killarney.—Muckross is a ruin pleasing to the antiquary and artist; Ardfert is a memory of past greatness; but the same order of monks, the followers of the gentle St Francis of Assisi, still preach through Kerry, and pray the same prayers as they did when the first fair abbey was founded in 1440 on the "Rock of Song" at Muckross.

In travelling with some slight knowledge of the general history of the county two periods will especially interest the traveller, viz.:—(1) That which extends from the first introduction of Christianity down to the time of the coming of the Normans, and (2) the age of Elizabeth, which saw the downfall of the great chiefs and ended feudalism. The hundred years, from 1602 to 1702, come next in point of interest. But the Elizabethan period is that which grips the imagination most forcibly. Visitors coming to Kerry would do well to get the two periods mentioned well into their minds, in which case a journey through the county will present attractions apart from the loveliness of the scenery and the kindly manners of the people.

X. LITERARY ASSOCIATIONS

The most important early historical documents dealing with the county of Kerry are the "Annals of Innisfallen." These Annals are supposed to deal with universal history from the creation of the world to the year A.D. 430; but after that date they refer to historical occurrences in a more restricted field. They were written in 1215, and continued on to the year 1320 by monks who dwelt in the monastery on the island of Innisfallen.

St Finan the Leper founded this religious house in the 6th century, and it long maintained a high reputation for learning and religion. Later, when the Celtic Church organisation and discipline was brought more under the central authority of Rome, the abbey passed to the Canons Regular of St Augustine. From the date when the "Annals of Innisfallen" closed there does not appear to have been any literary association connected with the county of Kerry till we come to the days of Elizabeth.

In 1580, Edmund Spenser, the poet, came to the county to take part in the Desmond wars, and possibly some of the inspiration which makes alive the pages of the "Faery Queen" may have been gathered amidst the wild scenes in Kerry. Walter Raleigh, too, the county may claim as one of its literary celebrities. He wrote many pretty sonnets, and was in his latter years content with nothing less than a "History of the World." A mass of State papers during the reigns of Elizabeth, James I., and Charles I., carry on the history of the county, and most of these may be



BEE-HIVE CELL ON SKELLIG MICHAEL



LITERARY ASSOCIATIONS

read in a valuable literary magazine which flourished in the years 1854-55, and was called in the language of the times "The Kerry Magazine, a Journal of Polite Literature."

In comparatively recent years Kerry had its historian in Dr Charles Smith, who wrote a work called "The Ancient and Present State of the County Kerry." This work was published in A.D. 1774, and is now hard to obtain. But the picture the quaint doctor draws of Kerry is as pleasing as it is accurate in the main, and there is no book which gives in the short space of 420 pages such a comprehensive account of the county. It is still the standard work for all who wish to hear the story of Kerry. Miss Mary Agnes Hickson's "Old Kerry Records" contains a wealth of charming history connected with the county. Miss Cusack must not be forgotten in enumerating the literary associations of the county of Kerry. It was at Ross Castle, Killarney, that Tennyson wrote those lines in the "Princess":—

"The splendour falls on castle walls
And snowy summits old in story;
The long light shakes across the lakes,
And the wild cataract leaps in glory.
Blow, bugle, blow! set the wild echoes flying;
Blow, bugle! answer echoes, dying, dying, dying."

Thomas Moore, the Irish poet, sang of "Sweet Innisfallen" in one of those pretty poems which live in people's memories. James Anthony Froude at one time lived at Derreen, and it was there he wrote the "Two Chiefs of Dunboy," a book which gives most truthfully the atmosphere of Kerry, even if it lacks accuracy in detail. The place where he sat in the open air, writing

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through the long summer days, is still pointed out. On the whole, however, Kerry is not rich in literary associations. The county has produced no great poet and no great dramatic historian like Sir Walter Scott. There are materials enough to weave stories innumerable, and to one possessing the gift of interpretation and the power of turning into glowing romance all the mass of historic fact and legend, there is a prospect of endless variety. Some day such a genius will arise, and then Kerry will speak as the Highlands of Scotland have spoken since the days of Sir Walter Scott.



BEE-HIVE CELLS OF MONKS ON SKELLIG MICHAEL

LAKES, PASSES, AND MOUNTAINS

XI. TABLE OF LAKES, PASSES, AND MOUNTAINS

(I) LAKES

Name.	Height above the Sea.	Length in Miles.	Breadth in Miles.	District where situated.
Lough Leane . . .	66 ft.	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	Killarney
Middle or Muckross Lakes . . .	67 „	2	$\frac{7}{8}$	Killarney
Upper Lake . . .	70 „	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	Killarney
Lough Guitane . .	256 „	...	...	Killarney
Cloonee Loughs . .	93 „	...	...	Kenmare
Lough Currane . .	19 „	...	...	Waterville
Cloonaghlin Lough	366 „	...	...	Waterville
Derryana Lough . .	381 „	...	...	Waterville
Cloon Lough . . .	293 „	...	...	Glencar
Coomasahane Lough	549 „	...	...	Caragh
Caragh Lough . . .	57 „	...	...	Caragh
Lough Gill . . .	Sea level	...	...	Castle-
Lough Gal (White Lake). . .	359 ft.	...	...	gregory
Lough Cruttia . .	638 „	...	...	Dingle
Lough Auscaul . .	259 „	...	...	Dingle

(2) PASSES

Roads.	District.	Foot, Car, Pony Passes.	District.	Foot Passes.	District.
Windy Gap, 800 ft.	Killarney.	Gap of Dunloe.	Killarney.	By Lough Currane and Glenmore to Staigue Fort. Mullochveal, 1164 ft.	Waterville.
Moll's Gap, 800 ft.	Killarney.	Windy Gap, 1098 ft.	Caragh.	Derrycunihy, Forest Road, to Kenmare.	Dingle.
Balloghbeama, 600 ft.	Kenmare and Glencar.	Caherbla, 927 ft.	Tralee.	Foot pass for Glen of Kep- poch and Kil- garvan.	Killarney.
Balloughisheen, 997 ft.	Waterville and Glencar.	Marhin, 620 ft.	Dingle.	Do. from Aunis- caul Lake to Lettergh.	Killarney.
Coomakista, 800 ft.	Waterville.	Owenreagh, 850 ft.	Killarney.		Dingle.
Connor Hill.	Dingle.	Gloun Skeehey, or Foley's Glen, 1064 ft.	Tralee.		

LAKES, PASSES, AND MOUNTAINS

(3) MOUNTAINS

Districts where situated.

Killarney.	Kenmare and Sneem.	Waterville, and Valencia.	Caragh and Glencar.	Dingle.	Tralee.
Mangerton, 2756 ft.	Peakeen, 1825 ft.	Tullig, 1220 ft.	Carrantuohill, 3414 ft.	Brandon Moun- tain, 3127 ft.	Bautregaum, 2796 ft.
Torc, 1764 ft.	Boughil, 2065 ft.	Mullaghbeg, 1678 ft.	Beenkeragh, 3314 ft.	Brandon Peak, 2764 ft.	Caherconree, 2713 ft.
Toomies, 2413 ft.	Knockabreeda, 1811 ft.	Knockaline, 2211 ft.	Brassel Mountain, 1888 ft.	Knockabreesta; 2509 ft.	Gearbane, 2423 ft.
Purple Moun- tain, 2739 ft.	Cloomageerbehy, 1671 ft.	Bolas, 1330 ft.	Caher, 3200 ft.	Gearhane, 2050 ft.	Glenbrack, 2169 ft.
Crohane, 2102 ft.	Knockboy, 2321 ft.	Kilkeaveragh, 1222 ft.	Colly Mountain, 2238 ft.	Mount Eagle, 1695 ft.	Knockmoyle, 1401 ft.
Stoompa, 2281 ft.	Knockowen, 2169 ft.	Knocknatober, 2267 ft.	Macklaun, 1998 ft.	Marhin, 1351 ft.	Knockawaddra, 1125 ft.
The Paps, 2268 ft.	Knocklomana, 2097 ft.	Caunoge, 1632 ft.	Beenreagh, 1628 ft.	Ballysitteragh, 2050 ft.	Caherbla, 1926 ft.
Eagle's Nest, 1100 ft.	Mullaghanattin, 2539 ft.	Bentee, 1245 ft.	Coolroe, 1361 ft.	Slievanea, 2026 ft.	Knockbrack, 1308 ft.
Leoscaunagh, 1280 ft.	Beoun, 2468 ft.	Drung Hill, 2104 ft.	Seefin, 1621 ft.	Listorgan, 2001 ft.	Knight's Moun- tain, 1097 ft.
Sheehy Moun- tain, 1820 ft.	Knocknagantee, 2219 ft.	Been Hill, 2199 ft.	Skregbeg, 1883 ft.	Knockmulanane, 1953 ft.	Mount Eagle, 1417 ft.
	Coomcallee, 2134 ft.	Mullaghnacakil, 2185 ft.		Benoskee, 2713 ft.	Knockfelin, 1391 ft.
		Coomacarrea, 2541 ft.		Beenaconroe, 1033 ft.	

CHAPTER I

KILLARNEY

I. *Approaches.* There are four ways of approaching Killarney, viz., (1) by the Great Southern and Western Railway direct from Dublin ; (2) by what is called the "Prince of Wales" route from Cork, by the Cork and Bandon Railway as far as Bantry, and on by coach over the hills to Kenmare, and thence either by coach road over the Dunkerron Mountains, or by rail, which meets the main line at Headford ; (3) by the Great Southern and Western Railway, *viâ* Limerick, Listowel, and Tralee ; and (4) by the route recently opened *viâ* Fishguard and Rinalles, and thence by Waterford, Lismore, Fermoy, and Mallow. This latter route would be more suitable for travellers wishing to see the wild district of Dingle first of all, and would hardly be convenient for those who wish to come to Killarney for a few days only. I shall therefore, when dealing with Killarney, confine my description of the approaches to the first two routes.

1. *To Killarney by rail direct from Dublin, viâ Mallow.* From Mallow a single line of rail runs through an undulating country watered by various streams, affluents of the Blackwater, past the roadside stations of Lombardstown, Banteer, and Mill-

KILLARNEY

street, all in County Cork. There is nothing very interesting in the scenery, though a foretaste of what is to come is obtained by the views of the heathery hills on the left of the line of railway. After passing Millstreet, however, the traveller may look about and get a first glimpse of Kerry in "the Paps" Mountains (2268 ft.), which rise dim over the brown bog land round a shoulder of the Millstreet Hills, which are parallel to the line. The two conical peaks cannot be mistaken. On the R. of the line is a long stretch of flat bog and pasture land rising to low, blue, far-off hills, and studded with little holdings. Farther on, when "the Paps" are passed, the dark mass of Mangerton (2756 ft.) and Torc (1764 ft.) are seen, and beyond them the Toomies (2413 ft.). Nearing Rathmore the Blackwater almost touches the line of railway on the R., spanned by a good stone bridge, over which a road leads northwards. After passing this landmark the tourist is in the "Kingdom of Kerry."

Rathmore—the "great fort," as its Irish name implies—is a small village consisting of a few well-built stone houses, a police barrack, a Petty Sessions Court, and the usual number of public-houses, out of all proportion to the population. Beyond the village—about a mile to the W.—is a well-built church, with a convent of the Order of Presentation nuns. This can be seen on the hill to the left of the railway. A school is there, also kept by the good sisters, which must be of inestimable benefit to the neighbourhood. All the way from Mallow the line of railway has been gradually ascending, for the country passed through is the watershed of the Blackwater, and

all the streams and rivulets are but tributaries of that great river. When, however, the summit of the watershed is reached, some four miles W. of Rathmore, the line swings S. and turns towards the hills, and the watershed of the rivers flowing into the Lakes of Killarney, and thence westwards to the sea in Dingle Bay, is entered. It will be noticed that the rivers are now flowing W. and S., whereas up to this they have been flowing N. and E. To the right are low stony hills covered with gorse and heather, and amongst them coarse rocky fields, with a bit of tillage here and there. Further on some Scots firs cut the sky-line, and contrast with the red bog and far-distant low blue hills, and then is seen the little village of Barraduff, and the rising ground over the Ouneencree River, which is here spanned by an ivy-clad bridge. On the left of the line as the train rushes over the viaduct which spans the Ouneencree a bit of wild ragged mountain land is seen, a stony region where the white-washed cottages shelter at the foot of the cliffs. A foreground of dark firs and deciduous trees and a green flat expanse of pasture land fronts these hills and marks the approach to Headford Station. At Headford a branch line runs to Kenmare round the shoulder of the southern hills and through Glenflesk, of which more will be said further on in this Guide. The mountain rising in graceful lines right opposite Headford Station is Crohane (2102 ft.), at the base of which runs the carriage road from Killarney to Kenmare and Macroom. The flat mountain W. of Crohane is Stoompa, the highest point of which is 2281 ft. The great massive form of Mangerton (2756 ft.) is

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seen beyond that, and standing out boldly from this point is Torc (1764 ft.). Between Headford and Killarney the scenery on the right of the line is still of much the same character, gorse, heather, bog, and pasture, with the ever-present cottage holdings.

But as the train moves on the scenery on the left opens out into more and more beautiful views. Little streams fringed with osmunda ferns flow by thickets of silver birch and holly to join the Flesk River. A glimpse of Killaha Castle at the foot of Crohane is obtained as the train passes the five-arch bridge over the Flesk, and the mountains seem to unfold their beauties. Keppoch Glen between Crohane and Stoompa opens out, and the deep dark entrance to "Gloun Na Coppal" (Glen of the Horses) is seen between Stoompa and the mighty shoulder of Mangerton. Now comes a wide sweep of the silver Flesk river, backed by the dark mass of firs in Pouldecka Wood, and beyond that the wilderness of the mountains of Dunkerron, Glena, and the Toomies. The river is lost again, but beyond the stony furze-crowned land rises the Loretto Convent on a tree-crowned hill. Now another wild bit of river scenery and an oak wood; a high wooded hill with Flesk Castle on top; and far to the W. the distant points of Killarney House and a white pinnacle of the church. One more bit of exquisite river scenery beyond that and the train enters a cutting, and nothing more is seen till the traveller arrives at Killarney Station.

2. *To Killarney via Cork, Glengariffe, and Kenmare.* From Glengariffe, which is in County Cork, the road leads uphill to "The Tunnel," which is on the boundary line between Cork and Kerry. From this point the road bends down a pretty

wooded valley and along the banks of the Sheen River to Kenmare. On the right are seen the "Priest's Leap" and Knock-Boy Mountains. A change of horses gives time for luncheon in Kenmare, and also an opportunity for inspecting the Convent work. From Kenmare the road leads for some six miles of gradual ascent to the "Windy Gap." On the right of the road is seen Peakeen Mountains (1825 ft.), whilst Boughal (2065 ft.) presents a rain-seamed side on the left. At the Windy Gap a lovely prospect opens. In front are Knockabreeda, Comeenduff, and Brassel Mountains, with the Reeks and the Purple Mountain (2739 ft.) beyond the first ridge. Beneath lies the peaceful wooded vale where the Owenreagh, meaning the "Grey River," runs on to join the Geerameen. A mile further on Loosecaunagh Lake is seen to the right, and after passing this the whole of the Upper Lake and "Long Range" are seen. No more need be said of this approach, save that one scene more beautiful than another (if possible) is met with till the walls of Muckross Park shut in the road near Torc Cascade.

II. *Killarney*. Killarney (Cill Arne, in Celtic, means the Church of the Sloes) is an irregularly built town containing a population of some 6000 people. It lies low in a hollow a little above the level of the lake, and is consequently not a very bracing place. But the fresh winds from the mountains counteract the effects of the dampness, and the town, taking it as a whole, is very healthy. Two long streets—Main Street, which runs roughly S. and N., and New Street, which branches off from Main Street, S.W.—are the main thoroughfares

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from which the numerous lanes branch off. At first sight the general appearance of the town is not impressive. Many years ago an ancestor of the present Earl of Kenmare gave a lease for ever to all and every one who would build a house, and this accounts to some extent for the irregularity and the want of much that is considered desirable in a modern town. But, leaving aside the general description of Killarney town, which is really a matter of little importance to passing visitors, who are accommodated as comfortably as possible in many hotels in and outside the urban boundary, let us consider the places of interest and see what there is to be seen.

(1) Driving or walking down to the end of New Street opposite the main gate lodge of Killarney House stands the Cathedral in a wide-open space, flanked by the Presentation Convent, the palace of the Bishop, and the Schools and Chapel of the Christian Brothers. Built of white limestone, of the Early English style of architecture, this Cathedral is one of the most beautiful works of the late Mr Pugin. Begun in 1846, it was finished in 1856. The more you look at this Cathedral the more you are struck by the exceedingly good taste in which everything pertaining to it is carried out. People say it is some twenty or thirty feet too short. Be that as it may, the fact does not strike the ordinary observer, and the whole scheme of the church appears quite in harmony. Inside, the building is equally graceful and dignified. The beautiful window of the N. transept, where the Bishops of Kerry lie buried, was put up by the late Earl of Kenmare as a thankoffering for the recovery of his daughter. Visitors who have

an opportunity should hear the organ, which sounds very grand in the chaste and somewhat severe Gothic interior of this beautiful church.

(2) Attached to the Presentation Convent is a school of lace and needlework, specimens of which can be seen on application.

(3) Almost opposite the gate of the Presentation Convent is the "Castlerosse School of Industry," which comprises a school for wood-carving and also a school of domestic economy. The carving school was started in the year 1894 by Lady Castlerosse. Continuing our walk through the grounds of the Cathedral and past the palace of the Bishop of Kerry, we come to a road fringed by lime trees, and turning to the R. about two hundred yards or so we see on the L. the Convent of the Sisters of Mercy, where also is a school for girls. Again turning to the R., we enter the town by the N.W. end of the Main Street, and passing the small, unpretentious, red brick Town Hall, built in 1860 by the Earl of Kenmare for the benefit of the town, we come to the Protestant Episcopal Church on the left-hand side, opposite the Munster and Leinster Bank. This church, with its graceful white spire, is of quite modern architecture. It contains a fine organ, good stained-glass windows, memorials to various members of the family of Herbert of Cahirnane, and also a tablet to the memory of the wife of an officer (Captain Turner) who died at Ross Castle in 1825, and of whom it is said on the tablet she was "all that is aimable (*sic*) in Woman." But of old monuments, tombstones, or records the church is destitute—being a comparatively new edifice. Visitors will not remain long in the town of Killarney when the

KILLARNEY

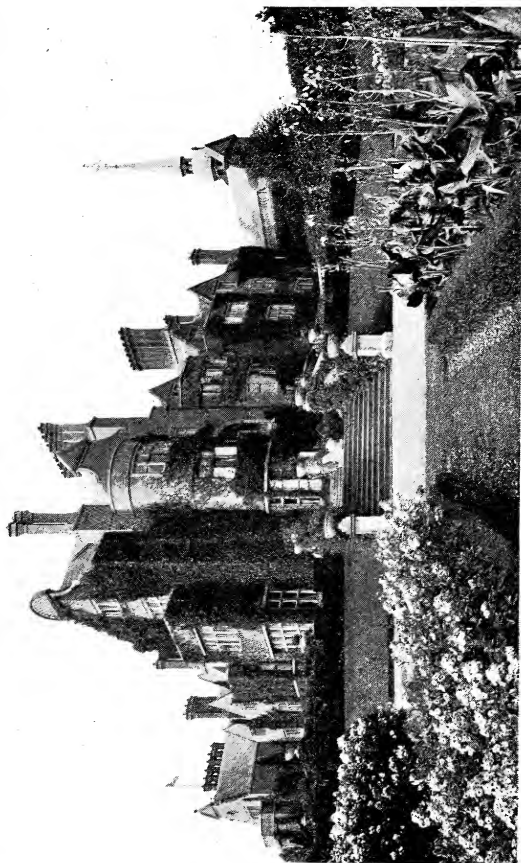
country beyond its boundaries is so tempting, and it is unnecessary to say anything more on the subject here.

(4) Opposite the gates of the Cathedral is the main entrance gate of Killarney Demesne. Visitors are allowed to see the grounds and gardens and to enjoy the view from the terrace on application at this gate. This view is perhaps the most beautiful of the many around Killarney. Below the house and gardens lies the park, stretching away to Ross Castle and the islet-studded Lough Leane. Beyond the lake the far-distant mountains of Dunkerron are seen to the S., and nearer Eagle's Nest, Glenna, and Toomies, with their lower slopes clothed with wood, and their summits clear-cut against the sky. Looking W. are to be seen the highest mountains in Ireland, Carrantuohill and its sister peak Beenkeragh. Eastwards, Torc, Mangerton, and the peak of Crohane form the background to the garden. Killarney House is a modern Elizabethan building, begun in 1875, and finished in the year 1881. The old house stood down on the flat land close to the town, near where the stables are situated at present. A more beautiful site than that occupied by the present house it would be hard to imagine, and impossible to find. Every natural feature has been taken advantage of to make the gardens interesting and attractive. Terrace leads to terrace, garden to garden, each with its wealth of flowers and shrubs too numerous to mention, till the roses and azalias seem to merge and lose themselves in the surrounding woods. Here and there openings have been judiciously cut which afford glimpses of the lake and islets, whilst

behind the "Dairy" garden a fountain in a charming dell, shadowed by trees, forms a foreground to a view of the W. end of the lake and far-off hills. As a background to the pictures which meet the visitor at every point are the glorious mountains, with their ever-changing colours and various shapes. It is a prospect to dream of, and is never forgotten. And this home amidst these beautiful surroundings is worthy of those who created it, and of the family which has deserved well of its country since the days of Queen Elizabeth, in acting up to the motto "Loyal en Tout" which circles the tower.

Clough-na-Cuddy. Not far from the "Dairy," which is the western object of interest and beauty in the grounds of Killarney House, is the stone of "Cuddy." The legend has it that one Father Cuddy, a monk of Innisfallen, went once upon a time to pray in the woods. He prayed so long and so earnestly that presently he fell asleep, and remained in a state of forgetfulness for full 200 years. His knees wore the two round holes in the rock which now contain water with medicinal properties, to judge from the number of people who tie their small memory tokens to the "rag tree" overhanging the stone. The story of Father Cuddy is rather similar to that of Rip Van Winkle. Coming back to the world after 200 years of sleep, he found all changed in the monastery of Innisfallen, and also heard the story of one of the monks who 200 years before had gone one fine morning to pray in the woods and had never returned.

Ross Castle. One of the most celebrated places to be seen in the neighbourhood of Killarney is the grey old tower standing on the edge of the lake, $1\frac{1}{2}$

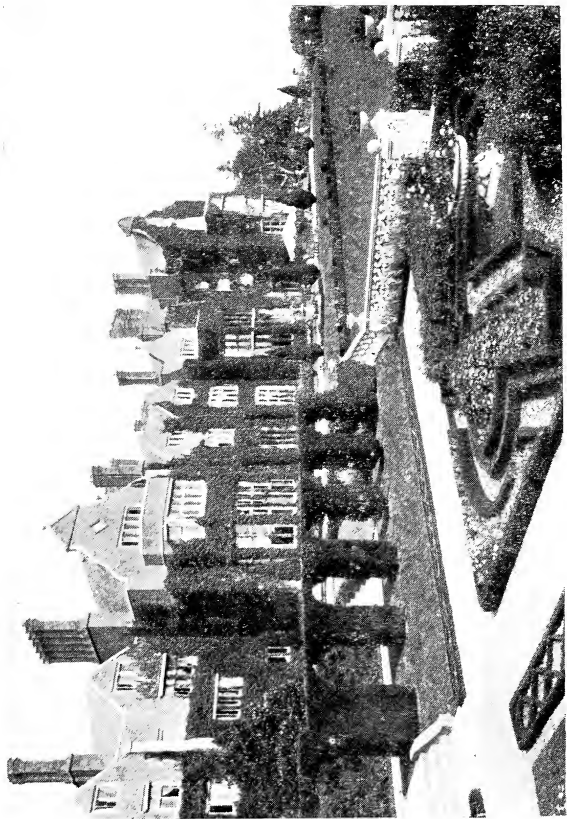


KILLARNEY HOUSE

KILLARNEY

m. distant from the town. The background of mountains and the woods which come close up to its walls make it a conspicuous object from almost every point of view, and it is difficult to say from what point it presents its most attractive appearance. The building probably dates from the close of the 14th century, and it was originally the strong fortress of O'Donoghue Ross, who must not be confounded with O'Donoghue More, the great chief of the sept of O'Donoghue. Many legends cling to the name of this ancient possessor of Ross Castle, and amongst them is that which tells of the foundation of a city beneath the waters of the lake in the land which was called "Tirnan-Oge" or the "Land of Perpetual Youth." From the Land of Perpetual Youth O'Donoghue is said to revisit the upper world once in seven years, on a morning in May, and mounting his white horse, which for seven years has remained a solitary and immovable rock, he rides over the waters of the great Lough Leane. Luck is believed to attend the person who sees the great chieftain on these rare occasions. Far up on the bare side of the Toomies Mountains lies a little patch of green amidst the brown heather. There the snow lingers longest in springtime, and legend says that "Parkeen Na Coppal bawn," or the "Field of the White Horse" (as the green spot is called), is the grazing ground of O'Donoghue's steed. The lone rock standing out between the castle and Innisfallen Island is "O'Donoghue's Prison," where captives were chained to iron weights. A splash of water from the crest of a broken wave is O'Donoghue's blessing. So legend on legend keeps green the memory of the founder of Ross Castle.

The O'Donoghues were a minor sept or clan under the great chief MacCarthy More, and when the Desmond wars, in the days of Queen Elizabeth, had brought disaster to the Geraldine and MacCarthy More chieftains, Sir Valentine Browne obtained Ross Castle as part of the forfeited land of the Earl of Glencar (MacCarthy More). This was in 1588, and since that date the old castle has remained in possession of Sir Valentine's successors. On July 5th, 1652, Lord Broghil defeated the Irish forces under Lord Muskerry at the Battle of Knocknicklaskey in County Cork. It was a disastrous fight, in which Major MacFineen MacCarthy was slain and Colonel MacGillycuddy was taken prisoner, and the only thing for Lord Muskerry to do was to retire to some strong fortress. Ross Castle at that time was the redoubtable place in Munster, on three sides surrounded by the lake, and on the fourth side defended by a deep ditch extending from Castletough Bay to the Bay of Ross. Lord Muskerry was the guardian of the young Sir Valentine Browne, and possibly this fact weighed with him in choosing Ross Castle as a place for retreat. General Ludlow, Cromwell's trusted leader, followed, however, with 4000 foot and 200 horse, and made arrangements for the reduction of this important stronghold. Ludlow, hearing that the garrison was supplied with provisions from the opposite shore of the lake, detached a force to clear the woods, and fortifying the neck of land opposite the N. end of the castle, he isolated the garrison. But there was a tradition amongst the people of Kerry that Ross Castle would never be taken till "ships should swim on the lake." And so, in the lines of "Lake



KILLARNEY HOUSE

KILLARNEY

Lore," from the *Kerry Magazine*, they held out:—

“And closer while the Leaguer grows,
Winding round Ross by wood and brake,
The pent-up garrison repose
On the charmed spell which guards their Lake.”

Ludlow, however, was a General full of resource, and he devised the plan of sending large boats round the coast from Kenmare to the mouth of the river Laune. These boats were dragged up the river, and one, being quickly fitted out, proceeded to reconnoitre the castle from the waterside. This was enough to discourage the garrison. The prophecy was fulfilled—resistance would be vain! Commissioners were appointed to treat, and, after a fortnight's parley, conditions were drawn up and agreed to by both sides, and the garrison surrendered.

Ross Island. From Ross Castle a beautiful walk or drive may be taken round Ross Island where the arbutus grows luxuriantly. The copper-mines, the old workings of which are still to be seen on this island, were opened in 1804, and the work was continued for about four years, till the influx of water stopped all further operations. The drive or cycle ride round Ross Island shows view on view of Lough Leane, each one different from another. For the first part of the route Castle Lough Bay opens out, backed by the outline of hills, the Paps, Stoompa, Mangerton, and Torc, and the wooded shores of Muckcross. Islands stud this bay, Elephant Rock, Cow Island, Friar's Islet, Holm Island, and the “Hen and Chickens” Rocks. On reaching the copper-mines, a fine expanse of water lies in front of the

forest hills of the Long Range, and the Eagle's Nest rises up beyond the woods of Dinas Island. Glena Bay with the cottage in the depths of the woods, which extend up the mountain side, lies still and calm, sheltered by the steep side of Glena and Sheehy Mountain. A little farther on the fine outline of the Toomies Mountain is seen across the lake. Continuing on through the pine woods to the point of Ross Island, a view is obtained of Innisfallen and the low northern and eastern shores of the lake, with the faint blue hills of the Dingle Peninsula in the far distance.

Innisfallen Island. A short distance by water from the quay at Ross Castle lies the island of Innisfallen—celebrated not only for its scenery and its sweet-sounding name, but still more for the interest which attaches to the ruined monastery and oratory which perpetuates the memory of St Finan. The monastic buildings consist of a church with two narrow east-end windows of probably 10th century architecture, remains of a refectory, faint traces of cloisters, the Abbot's house, and other conventual buildings, built in somewhat irregular form. The foundations of the miniature cloister can be traced in the grass on the N. side of the church. Inside the church, slabs graven with the Latin and Celtic crosses mark the graves of forgotten members of the community. But perhaps more interesting than the conventual ruins is the little Romanesque oratory which stands on a craggy point over the lake, a few yards from the main buildings. This little edifice, built of the most massive masonry, has a round arched-Romanesque W. doorway, where the decoration is singularly perfect. The small E. window looks out over the lake to-



ROSS CASTLE, KILLARNEY

KILLARNEY

wards Ross Castle. This oratory is of about the same date as the old church at Aghadoe, though in all probability an older foundation existed here prior to the Romanesque period of architecture. A walk round Innisfallen Island affords the most pleasing succession of views of Lough Leane to be found in the whole neighbourhood of Killarney. A flat upright slab of limestone at the extreme W. end of the island goes by the name of the "bed of honour," and is one of the sights recommended to tourists visiting Killarney. From this point Brown Island can be seen to the W., and the low shores of the lake from Lake View House and on by Mahony's Point backed by the woods of Aghadoe. The name Innisfallen is said to be "Inis-Faithlenn," island of Faithlenn—a man's name, according to Dr Joyce. Its formation is limestone, and on it grow some of the largest hollies and ash trees to be found in the district.

Innisfallen in the 7th century was an abode of religion and learning. The Venerable Bede mentions it in his "Church History," and gives a pleasing picture of the generous hospitality of the monks in the days when St Finan and Coleman were bishops. He tells how men of high rank amongst the English left their native land and retired to this island for religious instruction, and how the monks received them willingly and maintained them free of expense. It is with the name of St Finan Lothar or the Leper that Innisfallen is chiefly connected. He was a son of the King of Munster, and a disciple of St Brandon, and the following is a beautiful legend as to the manner in which he obtained his name, the "Leper":—The saint of Innisfallen possessed a marvellous

power of healing all manner of diseases, and the poor afflicted people from all parts flocked to him to heal them. Amongst those who came on one occasion was a lady leading a small boy. The lady was the wife of a neighbouring chieftain, and the boy, her son, was a leper. St Finan, when appealed to, gave no reply, but told the lady to come on the morrow and he would tell her whether he could heal her son. Then he dreamed, or the angels told him, that the only way he could cure the child was by taking to himself the leprosy. Then he saw in a vision the multitudes flocking to the island, and he himself stricken with a living death by this loathsome disease. So on the morrow when the lady came he told her of his dream and of the consequences which would follow his healing her son. And she, having compassion, chose rather that her own son should continue in his affliction than that the healer of the multitudes should be stricken. But not so St Finan. He saw the way clear before him—the way of the Cross—and he healed the child, but the leprosy clung to the healer to the day of his death.

Killarney and Aghadoe. The road which leads out from Killarney past the Convent of Mercy on the L., and on past the Poor House, crosses the little Deena stream 1 m. from the town. From there the road rises gradually to meet a cross-road to the L. hand. At the top of the rise a road runs W., and following this for 1 m., the church and old remains of the round tower of Aghadoe come in sight. The view over the lakes from this point is wonderfully fine, and is well worth seeing at any time of day and at any season of the year.





LOWER LAKE, KILLARNEY, FROM ROSS ISLAND

KILLARNEY

No more beautiful site for a church could have been found than that occupied by the ruined shrine of which so little is known.

The first mention of a church at Aghadoe, "The Field of Two Yews," is in the annals of Innisfallen, where in the year 992 it is related that "Maelsuthain hua Cerbaill, Chief Sage of Ireland, rested in Christ AB Achud-deo." The round arched doorway, with the "dog tooth" decoration, here, as in Innisfallen and many other parts of Kerry, does not necessarily point to the Anglo-Norman period. A Romanesque wave spread direct from Normandy to Ireland, and affected Irish architecture long before the coming of Henry II. and his followers, and it seems to have been contemporaneous with what is called the Saxon architecture found in various parts of England. The small tower lower down the hillside from the church of Aghadoe is said to be the ruin of one of the first towers built by the Anglo-Norman settlers in Ireland. Only a small part of the round tower attached to the church of Aghadoe remains. But this small part shows a fine example of the massive stone work of the period. After inspecting these interesting ruins the return to Killarney may be made either by road round by Aghadoe House, and so back through the Western Park to Killarney (4 m.), or by the old bye-road which leads down the hillside and meets the main road a mile to the W. of the town (2 m.).

Killarney to Muckross. A short 3 m. E. from Killarney by the shady road, which leads over the Flesk River, and on by Cahirnane and the Lake Hotel, the gates of Muckross Park are seen on the right. Visitors cannot fail to be struck

with the broad expanse of lake which lies before them, unbroken, save for an islet or two, to the base of the mountains. A limestone drive leads from the main entrance to a bridge ($\frac{1}{4}$ m.), crossing a clear stream, and immediately on passing this place a grassy avenue, between moss and fern-clad elms, meets the view. A little farther on the grey tower of Muckross Abbey rises out against the purple hills.

Muckross Abbey. This abbey was founded in 1440 by Donal MacCarthy More for Franciscan monks. The old legend connected with the founding tells how the chieftain was exhorted in a vision to build an abbey at "Carraig Na Ceol," or the "Rock of Song," and how, sending his followers for many a day in fruitless search for this rock of song, they had well-nigh abandoned the hope of finding the spot, when a little maiden bearing a pitcher and singing an old Irish lament met the searchers at the place where Muckross now stands, and how they went with great rejoicing to tell the chieftain they had found the "Rock of Song." The legend is a pretty one but possibly void of foundation, for some annals tell of an abbey standing at this place prior to 1440, and an inspection of the existing buildings will probably bear out the theory that part at any rate of the abbey shows traces of having been built at different periods. The church itself is of the Late Decorated period of architecture, for though exceedingly plain and simple in detail, the doorways and windows show traces of the influence of later Gothic. The cuttings are deep, and the heads of some of the windows show the ogee arch with rectangular overhanging ledge. The piscina



ORATORY, INNISFALLEN

and sedilia are also of this Later Decorated period.

When the cloisters are observed it will be seen that two adjacent sides are of the round or Norman arch, whilst the other two sides have the pointed Gothic arch. This is curious and noteworthy. Many of the windows in the building attached to the church have the round head. Those on the E. side of the refectory and dormitory have plain square heads, whilst the pointed Early Gothic windows appear again on the N. side of the buildings. These small points may go to show that two or three different kinds of architecture of different periods are found in the present group of buildings attached to the Abbey Church. The monastery was occupied up to 1589, but the monks were then driven out. The abbey was restored and the monks re-entered into possession in 1602, and apparently all went well with them to 1629, when again they were obliged to leave their home. In 1641 they again returned and occupied the abbey for a few years, but eventually had to leave for good when General Ludlow and the Parliamentary army occupied Kerry. The length of the church is 100 ft. and its breadth 24 ft. The buildings are now well cared for. Tombs where the ivy-leaved toad-flax and hart's-tongue ferns grow fill the interior, and wallflowers cling to the ledges of the windows. The cloisters are small and somewhat dark, and the constant drip of water on the limestone capitals of the pillars has encrusted them with stalagmites. The gloom of these cloisters is increased by the spreading yew, which forms a green canopy and almost shuts out the sky. There are few places

where silence broods so strangely as in Muckross Abbey, with its mouldering and forgotten tombstones, few of which can now be read. The old quaintly lettered slabs on the N. wall of the chancel run as follow :—

“Orate pro felice statu fris Thade Holeni qui hunc sacrum Conventum de novo reparare curavit Anno Domini Millesimo Sexcentesimo Vigesimo Sexto.”

Near this is another in raised letters :—

“Orate pro Donaldto M^oFinen ET Elizabeth Stephenson O.S.H.E.F.”

The date of this is 1631.

The first of these tablets refers to Father Holen, who in 1602 returned to the abbey and restored it. The restoration was probably not complete till 1604, as an old record says that the “Friary of Lough-leanne” was repaired at that time—1604.

The final destruction of this abbey came in 1652. After the Desmond rebellion the lands of the abbey as well as of Innisfallen were given to a Captain Collam. They came into the possession of the Herbert family through a marriage with the heiress of the MacCarthy More. Muckross Abbey and the house and park were purchased by Lord Ardilaun in the year 1899. The celebrated MacCarthy More—he who was taken prisoner and bound over to keep the peace by the Lord-Deputy, Sir Henry Sidney, and who was afterwards created Earl of Glencar by Elizabeth—lies buried in Muckross Abbey. There are also tombs of the O'Donoghues of the Glens to be seen there.

Leaving Muckross Abbey, a road passes through a gate and goes along a drive rich with St John's-



VIEW FROM AGHADOE, KILLARNEY



KILLARNEY

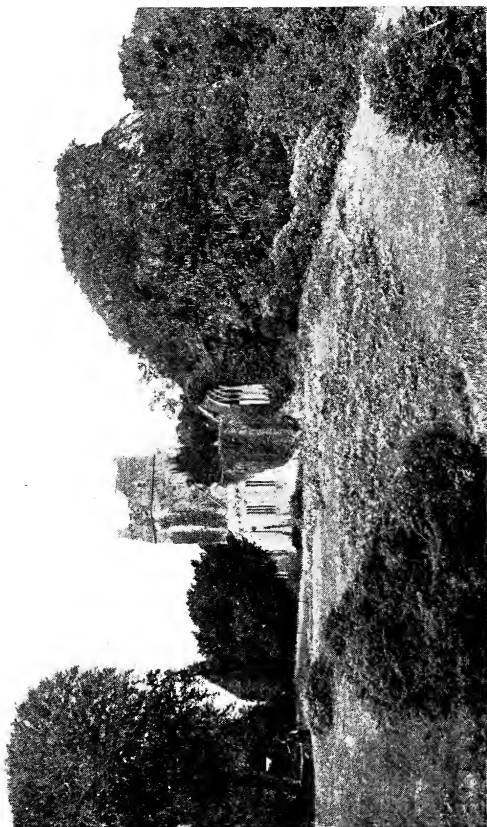
wort, yews, and a variety of trees, at times running close to the lake, to a second gate. Muckross House is now seen standing almost under Mangerton Mountain, whose base is here thickly clothed with larch and Scots firs. Continuing the drive or ride, and passing through another gate near the old "Glebe House," "West Muckcross" is entered, which extends as a long wooded peninsula to Dinish or Dinas Island. Dinish means "black" in Irish. The yew trees and ferns are ever with the traveller, save when an open glade of grass appears with tall ashes on the right, or a glimpse of the Middle Lake is obtained on the left, with graceful silver birches overhanging ledges of rock. Exceedingly fine views are obtained here and there of Torc Mountain and Eagle's Nest, as well as of the "Colleen Bawn" rock, which lies close to the shore and within a stone's throw of the drive. On a still autumn day this journey round West Muckcross is particularly attractive.

When Brickeen Bridge is reached, a view is obtained of the Middle Lake and Lough Leane, connected by the short stream which flows under the "small trout bridge," for such is the meaning of Brickeen. At Dinas, where the bamboo flourishes and magnolias, azalias, and various shaded hydrangias grow and flower in the open, a rest should be made for a time to view the "Meeting of the Waters" and the "Old Weir Bridge." On a summer afternoon it is a pretty sight to see the boats from the various hotels shooting the rapids one after another. From Dinas the road winds round the end of the Middle Lake through a plantation of fine Scots firs, till it joins the main Killarney and Kenmare road

at the base of Torc Mountain. Here a turn should be made to the left and the main road followed to Killarney. Torc Mountain was planted about a hundred years ago by the Colonel Herbert of the day; and the "Dower House," now in ruins, situated close to the foot of the mountain within the park enclosure, was built about the same time.

Torc Waterfall. One m. along this road from the point above mentioned, the cottage on the right marks another entrance to Muckross Park, and close at hand is the door and path leading to Torc Cascade. This beautiful fall is justly celebrated, and even in comparatively dry weather presents an attractive sight. In floodtime it would be hard to exaggerate the grandeur of the scene. The first view of the cascade is from the foot straight facing the gorge and ridge over which the water passes; but a pathway leads to the top of the hill above the fall, and it is well worth the climb to view the scenery from the higher level. A delightful walk leads from the top of the ridge through the pine woods to Muckross. This route is called the "Queen's Drive."

Killarney to the Gap of Dunloe and the Upper Lake. One of the recognised tours from Killarney is that which extends through the Gap of Dunloe and thence to the head of the Upper Lake at Geeramen, where boats previously sent up the chain of lakes meet visitors and convey them homewards by way of the Long Range, the "Meeting of the Waters," and Lough Leane. There are two ways of enjoying this expedition. The first by car along the main road from Killarney to the cross road beyond Lake View House (3 m.), thence to the left over the wooden bridge



MUCKROSS ABBEY



KILLARNEY

across the Laune, leaving the quaint old tower of Dunloe Castle on the right, to a point where a cross road running to the left goes through the wide glen which leads to the pass called the Gap of Dunloe. This drive is especially attractive, being close to a mountain stream issuing from the Black Lake and Cushvally Lake on the right of the road to the cottage at the foot of the pass, which marks the end of the journey by car. From here the traveller can proceed either on foot or on pony-back through the gap (4 m.). The scenery is impressive. The Purple Mountain on the left hand rises to a height of 2737 ft., whilst on the right the high ridge of the "Reeks" breaks suddenly into a precipice of extraordinary boldness. About a mile from its entrance the "Gap" broadens out, and the road leads by a zig-zag to the summit of the pass. The wooded valley of Geerameen comes gradually in sight, and as the road winds down the hillside a glorious view of Coom Duv or the "Black Valley" is obtained. At the foot of the hill the road turns to the L., and goes along to the Geerameen River and through pleasant woods to "Lord Brandon's Cottage" and the boat landing-stage of Geerameen. Just before entering the woods a branch road to the right leads through the valley of Owenreagh, to the Windy Gap on the main road between Killarney and Kenmare. The road from this point can be safely recommended to cyclists and foot passengers, the distance from Geerameen to the Windy Gap being 5 m.

Arrived at Geerameen landing-stage, the journey homewards can be made by boat over the waters of the Upper Lake, 10 to 12 m., according to the part of the Lower Lake to which the visitor returns. Should time permit, a stop should be made at

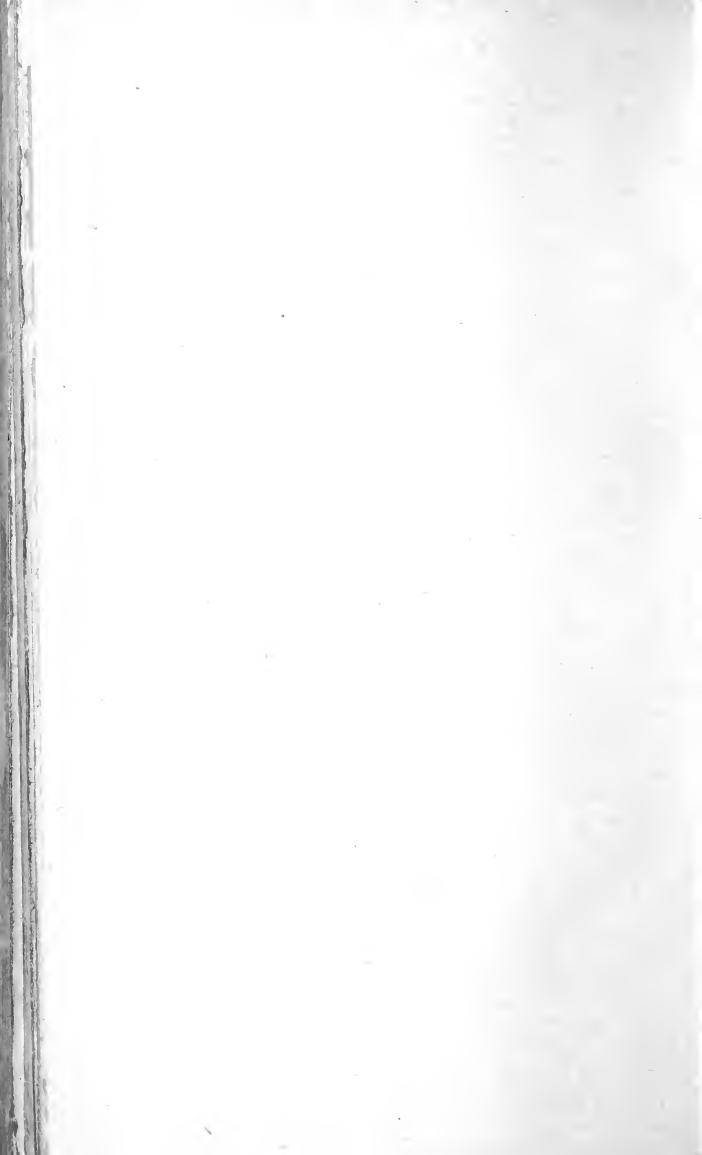
KERRY

Derrycunihy Cottage, situated in the woods on the R. side of the lake. A boat can go within a few yards of this cottage, where there is a landing-stage, and a short walk up the little Derrycunihy River brings to view the waterfall which comes from the hills through an overhanging tangle of oaks and birch trees. Boats leave the Upper Lake by an intricate passage called "Colman's Eye," where the giant or hero Colman is said to have leapt across the narrow channel and left his footprints, of no mean size, in the rocks. When going through the Long Range a sharp look-out should be kept for the sight of a stag or hind, especially in the evening, when they leave the woods and come out in the open to feed. Eagle's Nest, which towers up almost perpendicularly from the wooded shores of the calm water, is a fine point from which to look back up the Long Range. There are many outlines of distance to be seen from this place, and these, with the foreground of water and heather, make a charming picture. In front, as the boat proceeds, is Sheehy Mountain, and the long glen thickly clothed with woods, which stretches from Eagle's Nest to the folds of the Purple Mountain and Glenna.

Shooting the rapids is one of the features of this water journey, and in full flood-time is an exciting experience, the boats rushing under the arch of the old weir bridge into the still circle of the "Meeting of the Waters." Here it is well to rest on the oars, and, turning back, look at the view of the bridge with its shadowing trees and the background of mountains; or, landing for a few moments, visit the cottage of Dinas, where tea is to be obtained,



CLOISTERS, MUCKROSS ABBEY



KILLARNEY

and where azalias and camellias flourish in the open.

The route to the Lower Lake (Lough Leane) may be made either by the back channel, where osmunda ferns and silver birches clothe the banks of the stream, and where beautiful views of Glenna's wooded hills present themselves at every turn, or under the low, wooden bridge to the Middle Lake and on under Brickeen Bridge. This Middle Lake presents quite different features to the rest of the scenery of Killarney, and it seems to belong to a different chapter in the book of beautiful things. Low rocks clothed with birch and holly bound its northern shores, whilst its southern boundary is in the deep shadow of Torc Mountain, which rises up to a height of 1764 ft. Broader views of Glenna and Eagle's Nest are seen from the E. side, which is, perhaps, the best point from which to see the lake as a whole. The latter part of this journey is made over Lough Leane to Ross Castle, the Victoria Landing-Stage, or the Castle Lough Stage near the Lake Hotel.

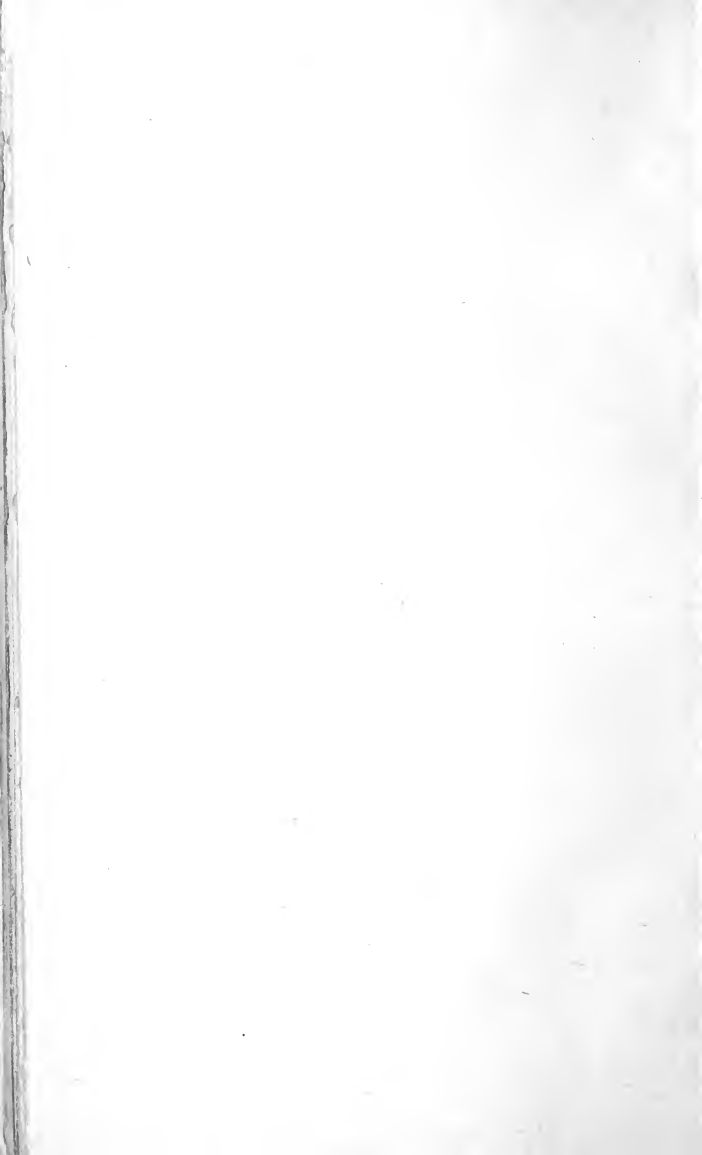
The tour here described is one which never fails to interest and attract visitors, and is one which can be strongly recommended. But should time permit, the reverse of this journey will probably present attractions of an even greater description. The advantage of the reverse journey, first by the lake and then by car, is that in the journey up the lakes the whole of the mountain scenery is in front, and the traveller is always going into more beautiful country mile by mile.

Killarney to Lough Guitane and the Glen of Keppoch. This excursion is not

one of those generally enumerated amongst the number to be made from Killarney, but it can compare with any in point of scenery. Two m. from Killarney, by the Muckcross Road, a cross road leads up the hill, passing the gates of Danesfort, the residence of S. H. Butcher, Esq., to the Loretto Convent, and descending the height on the E. side, goes by a winding route which gives a fine view of Crohane Mountain and the Paps to Poul-derka Wood—a dark fir plantation, in which is a hollow rocky kind of crater. In this secluded spot Mass was said in penal days. Turning to the L. at Poul-derka the road passes Lough Guitane Schoolhouse on the left, and soon after that the stony region of Cools' is seen on the R. About three-quarters of a mile from the schoolhouse there is a bridge crossing the Finow River, and a first glimpse is obtained of Lough Guitane. From this point the up-and-down road goes along the northern side of the lough, separated from it by some yards of moorland. Half a mile farther on is seen a gate on the right-hand side, separating the main road from a "bohereen," or rough car track, which leads along by a pleasant farm to the eastern shore of the lake. From here the roadway continues past a headland to the entrance of the glen of Keppoch. Every few yards bring some new and interesting bit of mountain scenery before the view. Croghane Mountain, sloping down to the shores of the lake, falls away to the S. to form a deep dip which divides its shoulder from the bold, steep, and prominent feature of the "trap" dyke which separates Croghane from the dark craggy sides of Stoompa. At the head of the lough there is some cultivated



TORE WATERFALL



KILLARNEY

land, and two comfortable hill farms stand sheltering in the hollow. A streamlet runs through this pleasant valley, coming from the depths of Keppoch and tumbling over some miniature waterfalls in its course to the lake. The road to the farms is fairly good, but after passing this point a very indifferent pathway, being, in fact, little more than a mountain track worn by the feet of cattle and shepherds, leads on into the recesses of the glen.

A slight rise in the ground obscures the view after passing the farms, but on surmounting the eminence ($\frac{1}{2}$ m.) the first plateau of Keppoch is seen widening out on each side of the stream to Stoompa on the R., and to the exceedingly bold and lofty cliffs which form the western face of the "dyke," which runs like a wedge due S., and forms the eastern boundary of this beautiful glen. Trees now straggle up the mountain slopes, oaks and hollies and mountain ashes, and break the stern outlines of the crags. Again there is a rise in the ground, and the stream comes hurtling and rushing down a boulder strewn course. It is hard here to keep the track, and care should be taken not to fall into some of the numerous holes hidden by a rank growth of ferns and heather. At the top of this second rise the beautiful wooded amphitheatre is seen. The whole place is wrapped in silence save for the tinkle of the brook which flows through this delightful spot. Grim solemn mountains rise around at whose base are woods where oaks, birches, and hollies grow in wild luxuriance. A few hundred yards up this solitude the valley turns to the R. into the breast of Mangerton, and ends abruptly in a wilderness with a waterfall (1 m. distant).

There are few places so well worth visiting as this beautiful lonely glen of Keppoch. The expedition might be varied by rowing across the lake from the bridge by the Finow if a boat is available, or by having ponies sent to meet the visitor at the point where the "bohereen," or bye-road, leaves the main public road at the N. end of the lake.

From Killarney to Beaufort, Dunloe, and back. From Killarney to Beaufort Bridge is a straight 6 m. of good road. The first part of the journey can be made either by following the main road past the Cathedral and along the banks of the Deena to Ballydowney Bridge (1 m.), and thence passing the gates of the Victoria Hotel on the L. ($1\frac{1}{2}$ m.), and having on the R. the woods of Gortroe and the ruined Cathedral of Aghadoe, to Aghadoe Cross, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m., or by way of the Western Park, which affords a fine view of the Lower Lake, Toomies Mountains, and the Reeks, to the same place. At Aghadoe Cross a road branches off to the right up a hill, passing the gates of Aghadoe House, the seat of Lord Headley, and eventually leading to Milltown, 12 m., or by Aglish and Rockfield to Tralee, 20 m. Leaving, however, this road for the present, and continuing along the main road towards Beaufort, Fossa Chapel is passed on the R. hand, and shortly after this the gates of Lake View are seen on the left. Lake View House, the home of Sir Morgan O'Connell, is not seen from the road. A few yards beyond the gates of this house a road branches off to the L., leading to the Gap of Dunloe. This cross is $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Killarney

UPPER LAKE, KILLARNEY





and $2\frac{1}{2}$ from Beaufort. Half-a-mile beyond this a little ruined chapel is seen on the right, nameless but picturesque. Another half-a-mile farther and the road begins to descend an incline from the gates of Grenagh (formerly belonging to the O'Connell family) to Beaufort Bridge. A farm-house, with gable ends and an air of comfort and prosperity about it, is seen on the rise of the hill to the right. This farm belongs to Mr M'Kay, and is most interesting to antiquarians, as being the site of "The Palace," or chief residence of the powerful family of MacCarthy More. It is sometimes written "The Pallis." Little remains to mark the site of this once famous place, and it is said that many of the stones were taken to build the piggeries at Beaufort House. It must have been a beautifully situated "Palace," with a view unsurpassed.

As the traveller nears Beaufort Bridge he should specially note the view looking up the Laune River to the Gap of Dunloe. Across the bridge the lodge gate of Beaufort House is passed on the L., and a small collection of houses, picturesque in their way, with a post office and police barrack, mark the village. Half-a-mile farther on the demesne of Dunloe is met on the L. Four hundred yards due S. of the entrance gate, at the edge of a small plantation, is the cave of Dunloe, famous for its Ogham stones. About the year 1838 some workmen discovered this subterranean chamber, rudely built and covered with flagstones. These stones are all inscribed with Ogham characters. For some few remarks on these Ogham monuments see Section IX., under the head of "Antiquities."

The Waters of Christ. In the glen, to the S. of this cave, through which the little river flows from the far-off lakes in the "Gap," there is a holy well called "Isky Christa," or the Waters of Christ. The dome over the well can be seen from the footbridge which spans the Loe. The grounds of Dunloe Castle being private, a return must be made to the main pathway, and the road followed which skirts the demesne wall and falls to the bridge over the Loe near the old corn mill on the right. The road leading straight S. goes to the Gap of Dunloe; that which bends to the L. passes the main gate of Dunloe Castle, and leads to the "Wooden Bridge" over the Laune, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m., and thence to Killarney.

Dunloe Castle. This old castle is one of the few old feudal keeps still inhabited. Founded, so it is said, about the 11th century, it stands in a commanding position on a hill bounded on the E. by the Laune River, and on the N. by the little stream, the Loe, which comes from the loughs in the Gap of Dunloe. The land on which the castle stands slopes suddenly to the river on the N. and N.E. side, and on the S.E. spreads out in a broad sweep well timbered, which affords a long-distance view of the Lower Lake of Killarney. Dunloe must have been a strong place in olden times, and was probably built to guard the entrance to the "Gap." It has been in the Mahony family for many generations, having come to them by a marriage of a Mahony with an heiress of O'Sullivan More, and has moreover been instrumental in history making, as all readers of Froude are aware. Originally the castle was much larger than the present building would lead one to expect;

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and probably the whole crown of the hill was a part of this strong place. But the castle, as it now stands, is one of the most picturesque and interesting buildings in the neighbourhood of Killarney.

Toomies. A mile E. from Dunloe Castle and near the shore of the lake are to be seen the faint outlines of Toomies House, the old residence of the O'Sullivan More.

Ballymalis. Eight m. from Killarney, on the direct road *viâ* Beaufort to Killorglin, and 4 m. from the latter place, stands the old castle of Ballymalis. Local tradition ascribes its building to a family of the name of Ferris, but it is also said to have belonged to the Moriartys. The cut stone windows and the ogee arch, together with the pointed arches of the doorways, seem to indicate the date of the building as being late 15th or early 16th century. A gable at the N. end shows the foundation of a high pitched roof, and one tall chimney gaunt against the sky still stands on the N.E. side. There are two projecting machicolated defensive galleries midway up the W. and E. angle of the walls. The lower part of the N. angle is gone. A pointed arched doorway on the S.E. face leads to a spiral stairway of limestone in good preservation; and branching off this stairway are two rooms with the stone flooring still preserved, and on the ceiling of one the mortar shows the marks of the basket-work which supported the arch when in process of formation. On the projection at the W. angle can be seen the "Fleur de Lys" cut in the supporting limestone corbels. Apparently an annexe existed at the S.E. side, and the moss-covered foundations are still to be traced.

Ballymalis is a most beautiful old ruin, and it is a pity so little is known of its history. It stands on rising ground on the R. bank of the Laune, and within a stone's-throw of the river. To get to the castle two or three fields must be crossed from the main road. From a distance it presents an imposing appearance, and it must have been a place of importance in old days. A line of castles from Killorglin to Killaha guarded the sort of frontier which the Flesk, the Killarney Lake, and the Laune River formed between the lowland country and the highlands of Desmond.

Killorglin and Ballymalis guarded the shallows over the river Laune by which a foe could cross from Iveragh to Castlemaine. Dunloe guarded the pass through the Gap of Dunloe, whilst Killaha, once in the possession of the "O'Donoghues of the Glen," guarded the entrance to the "Robbers' Glen" and the wild Glen Flesk, and held one of the main approaches to the Kenmare district where O'Sullivan More held sway. Most of these castles, if not all of them, were probably held by those who owed allegiance to the powerful chief MacCarthy More.

Killarney to Loo Bridge by the Pass of Crohane. The expedition from Killarney to the glen of Keppoch has been mentioned already in this Guide. But there is another journey in the same district which possesses many attractions. Lough Guitane lies S.E. of Killarney 4 m., and a row of $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. across the lake brings the traveller to the mouth of the Cappagh River, which flows from the glen of Keppoch (or Cappagh). The graceful pointed mountain on the S.E. side of the lake is Crohane (2102 ft.). Between this

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mountain and the glen of Keppoch is an irregular bluff mass with a southward trend, running like a wedge between the heights of Crohane and Stoompa. A footpath leads up the wooded gorge on the E. side of this wedge by the side of a streamlet which is soon lost underground as the traveller ascends the steep gorge. About a mile and a half from the shore of Lough Guitane a small mountain lake is met, called Lough Nabrada. The E. side of the wedge before mentioned is worth observing closely. The grand masses of cliff which rise on the right-hand side, and form the western boundary of the gorge, are of basaltic formation. In places the lower parts of the cliffs have fallen away, and make "scree" down the mountain side, whilst the upper portions still retain the perpendicular organ - pipe - like appearance peculiar to basaltic formation. Half-a-mile beyond Lough Nabrada to the S. lies Lough Crohane, with a bit of wild wood on its W. shore. From the S. end of this lough a walk of a little over a mile leads to the Headford-Kenmare road, which runs parallel to the line of railway. Three m. along this road to the E. is Loo Bridge railway station, from which point a train (if time fits) may be caught for the return journey to Killarney. The whole distance from the S. shore of Lough Guitane to Loo Bridge Station by the above-mentioned route would be 6 m.

The Ascent of Mangerton. There is no difficulty whatever in going to the summit of Mangerton. A footpath leads from base to summit which cannot possibly be missed. Some prefer making the journey on ponies, which can always be obtained. On a clear day the views are exceedingly fine,

and from the summit can be seen the waters of Kenmare River to the S., the mountains of County Cork, and the islands called the "Bull" and "Cow." To the W. the whole of the wild mass of mountains at the head of the Upper Lake are seen, whilst to the N., laid out like a map, is the lowland district of North Kerry, and the faint blue hills of Limerick and Clare.

Travellers can make an interesting return journey by the "Glen of the Horses"—Gloun na Coppul—which is on the E. side of Mangerton, and contains three small loughs—Lough Eragh, Lough Managh, and Lough Garagarry. The "Devil's Punch Bowl" is the name given to the dark lough near the summit of Mangerton. It is 2206 ft. above the sea-level, and is bounded on its S. and W. by precipitous rocks. This lake now forms the main reservoir for the water-supply of the town of Killarney. The stream issuing from the "Punch Bowl" goes to swell the waters of the little river flowing through the deer forest, and which tumbles through the woods on the lower slope of Mangerton to form the Torc Cascade.

O'Sullivan's Cascade. Three m. of a row over the Lower Lake from Ross Castle brings the traveller to O'Sullivan's Cascade. The stream supplying this beautiful waterfall rises in the depths of the Toomies Mountains, and flowing through the woods, breaks into foam through a dark gorge in the rocks. The waterfall is shaded by trees, and presents a singularly beautiful appearance.

Killarney to the Hag's Glen and Carran-tuohill. This expedition should not be forgotten when enumerating some of the many to be made from Killarney. The magnificent mountain scenery

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of Kerry centres in this wonderful glen, with the highest peaks in all Ireland towering over it. The best way to get to this glen is by way of Beaufort ($6\frac{1}{2}$ m.). Three miles W. of Beaufort village, leaving Churchtown on the R., a branch road goes S. towards the jagged sierra-like ridge of the Reeks. One m. from the Cross at Churchtown the road swings W. again, and crossing the Gaddagh River, continues for two more miles till it ends at a collection of cottages near a bit of plantation by the river side. At this point cars or bicycles must be abandoned, and the journey through the glen made on foot. A rough mountain track leads through the centre of the glen for 2 m. till Lough Callee and Gouragh Lake are reached. The scenery along this mountain track is most impressive. In front is seen the steep "scree" called the "Devil's Ladder," up which it is necessary to climb if the ascent of Carrantuohill is intended. On the R. a bold spur of Beenkeragh juts out, its southern point bearing some resemblance to a sphinx overlooking the glen. Imagination can picture the face of the "Hag" in this bold rocky mass, and from this the glen takes its name. Carrantuohill is seen at the head of the glen, rising to a height of 3414 ft. The only hard bit of climbing by this route is up the Devil's Ladder, where the shifting stones make a foothold difficult. From the top of the "Ladder" the slope of Carrantuohill is comparatively easy. The whole distance from the town of Killarney to the summit is 14 m. The return journey could be made by way of Glencar or by way of Curraghmore Lake and the Black Valley to the head of the Upper Lake.

Killarney through the Deer Park. A drive

from Killarney through the deer park leads by the glen through which flows the Deenagh river to the "Madam's Height," where the new "Campo Santo," or cemetery, given by the Dowager Countess of Kenmare, is situated. Here a crucifix under a canopy, the work of Bentley, is to be seen.

CHAPTER II

KENMARE

THE town of Kenmare, situated at the head of the long "fiord" which goes by the name of "Kenmare River," is approachable by four main routes.

(1) By train from Headford Junction, on the Great Southern and Western Railway, or by road from the same place through the beautiful valley of Glenflesk and the wild rocky bit called "The Robbers' Glen," and thence by Loo Bridge, Morley's Bridge, and Kilgarvan. The whole of the scenery along this route is of a singularly beautiful description, wood, mountain, rock, and stream combining to form one of the most varied and picturesque districts in Kerry. The road, which runs parallel with the railway, is good for cycling, and hence in every way it is an attractive journey.

(2) Over the hills from Glengariffe by way of "The Tunnel," and down the pretty valley of the Sheen River (20 m.).

(3) Over the hills from Killarney by the Derry-cunihy woods and the hills of the "Windy Gap" (20 m.). It would be hard to find a journey more

full of interest than this, which skirts the shores of the Middle and Upper Lakes and rises gradually to the upper level by the Mulgrave Police Barrack (10 m.) and thence to Looscaunagh Lough. Along the whole route beautiful views are obtained of the Upper Lake, the Purple Mountain, and the Reeks, and soon after passing Looscaunagh Lake the heights of Knockabreeda, Boughal, and Mullaghahattin are seen in the W. over the quiet valley of the Owenreagh. At the Windy Gap the road turns to the L., and a gradual descent for 6 m. gives views of Knockboy and the Priest's Leap, and the many mountains on the southern shores of the Bay of Kenmare.

(4) The fourth way of approach is by way of Sneem and Parknasilla, and on by Tahilla, Blackwater Bridge, and Dromore. The route, as far as the last-named place along the shores of Kenmare River, is extremely attractive, but after Dromore the route becomes somewhat monotonous, and there is little to interest the traveller except perhaps the ruin of the old Castle of Dunkerron, the ancient seat of the O'Sullivan More. These ruins, however, cannot be seen from the road. Approaching the town of Kenmare by this route a pretty bit of scenery is met with at the place where the Sneem road joins the coach road from Killarney, a quarter of a mile from the town.

(1) *Kenmare*. Kenmare, called in old maps Nedheen, is built in the form of an irregular triangle, and was founded by Sir William Petty in the 17th century. As its name implies, it is situated at the head of the bay or river to which it gives the name. The geological structure of this district is interesting even to those who are not experts

in this branch of science, as the ridges of the mountains and the smooth ice - planed rocks cannot fail to be noticed even by the uninitiated. The convent of "Poor Clares," which is now so well known, is one of the chief places of interest in the town. In it can be seen specimens of the lace and needlework which have given it a wide-extended reputation. The church, situated close to the convent, is also worth a visit. Near the town can be seen the place where, in 1688-89, the colony of iron - workers, mechanics, and farmers, who had been established in Kenmare by Sir William Petty during the quiet times between 1645 and 1688, entrenched themselves and held out against certain bands of robbers who raided their cattle and endangered their lives. The story is a strange one, and needs to be carefully read to be understood. After various struggles and sufferings the remnant of the colony, founded with high hope of industrial success, was obliged to give in, and was shipped off to Bristol. This happened when James II. was king, and before the authority of King William III. had been established in the "Kingdom of Kerry." Not far from Kenmare is the field of Callan, where in 1261 the great battle was fought between the Geraldines and MacCarthys, which ended so disastrously to the Geraldines.

(2) *Dunkerron Castle.* Two m. to the W. of Kenmare on the direct road to Sneem the gates of Dunkerron are passed on the left-hand side, and on entering the grounds the gaunt pile of masonry representing the tower and one wall of the old castle of O'Sullivan More is seen standing on a slight eminence. As these grounds are private, permission must be obtained before entering. A

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few slabs of stone, rudely cut, on which armorial bearings may be traced, lie in the recess within the ruined walls, whilst over the pretty well close by is this inscription, in parts almost defaced—

I.H.S. MARIA

DEO GRACIAS

THIS WORK WAS MADE

XX OF APRIL 1596 BY

OWEN O'SULLIVAN MORE

AND SILY—N.Y. DONOGH

MAC CARTY RIEOG—.



Whether this inscription refers to the well over which it now stands, or whether it formerly was applicable to the castle, cannot now be told. These names convey but little to the casual observer. But when the history of the county is understood, they remind the reader of much that is interesting. After the Desmond wars in the time of Elizabeth, the present county of Kerry saw the settlement of various English families, who gradually intermarried with the old Irish families, and by purchase, royal grants, and marriages, became possessed of the principal part of the land of the county.

The MacCarthy Rieog, or Reagh, mentioned in this old worn inscription, had a son called Florence MacCarthy, who was engaged to the daughter of Sir Owen O'Sullivan More. Queen Elizabeth was anxious that Sir Nicholas Browne of Mola-hiffe should marry Eileen MacCarthy, the daughter and heiress of the MacCarthy More, Earl of Glencar. But Florence MacCarthy upset all her calculations by running away with this lady and breaking his troth with the fair O'Sullivan. They were married, so says an old writer, "in an old

broken church in the wilds of Killarney with a Mass without licence of a bishop, and not in such solemnity and good sort as behoved, and as order of law and Her Majesty's injunctions do require." Poor runaway lovers! Banishment and a time in a tower was the punishment Elizabeth awarded Florence. Sir Nicholas Browne gallantly married the jilted lady, and through her became possessor of a great part of the O'Sullivan property. The eldest son, Valentine, married the Lady Elizabeth FitzGerald, daughter of the luckless Gerald, 16th Earl of Desmond. But the story of the fusion of races and the continuity of history is too long for the pages of a little Guide, and reference should be made by those who are interested in these matters to that invaluable work, Dr Smith's "History of Kerry," where some of this is recorded.

(3) *Kenmare to the Priest's Leap*. The road from Kenmare to Glengariffe leaves the southern end of the town and, crossing the Suspension Bridge ($\frac{1}{4}$ m.), turns to the E. for 1 m., and S. again along the valley of the Sheen River, which flows in many bends and over miniature falls from the mountains lying to the S., which separate the county of Cork from the county of Kerry. About 5 m. from Kenmare a branch road turns to the L. at a group of cottages and crosses a two-arched bridge. A sharp turn to the R. again leads along the R. bank of the streamlet towards a pretty farm surrounded by oaks and ash trees and approached by some stepping-stones over the water. From this point the road gradually rises for a mile to descend again at a point where a bye-road, crossing a bridge on the R., winds under the northern end of Deelis Mountain.



THE HAG'S GLEN AND CARRANTUOHIL



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Here it is well to pause and look at the scene. If this journey is made in June or July when the wild rose and honeysuckle are in flower, and the "Cotton Grass" waves in the damp growth in the bog lands, and the emerald green amidst the cliffs makes even the barren mountains rich, the visitor will not soon forget the beauty of this valley. To the S. the broad glen of Bannane opens out, at the head of which a waterfall may be seen sliding down the mountain side. To the N. Peakeen and the Purple Mountain are seen, whilst far away to the W. lies Knockreagh. One hundred yards beyond this bridge the direct road for the hills appears to go through the glen of Bannane, but this route must be avoided and the road which leads to the L. hand, up a slight hill, must be taken. A curve round the shoulder of a hill brings full in view the wild glen of Erneen lying in the folds of Barrerneen Mountain (1484 ft.) on the L. hand and Kinkeen Mountain (1666 ft.) on the R. A short distance along the road there is a group of beech trees on the rising ground to the L. These trees surround the old graveyard and remains of the old church of Feaughna. There is little of interest in this old ruin, of which but a small portion is left with an outline of foundations amidst the graves and rank herbage. But in a field close by is an interesting puzzle.

On a large rock in the centre of this field there are five symmetrical holes, and in each of these holes are egg-shaped stones. Three similar stones lie *on* the rock, the whole eight forming a rough circle, in the centre of which lies an old "quern," or stone, used in ancient times to grind corn. Local people liken these stones to pats of butter, which indeed they

resemble to a remarkable extent. A superstition attaches to this curious rock, and it is held to be very unlucky to remove, even temporarily, one of these stones. As to the idea of removing them to another place, such a thing is unthinkable, and would be futile, for the stones to whatever place removed would be taken back again by some invisible power forthwith to the rock where they have lain for ever so many hundreds of years! Whatever may be the scientific explanation of this curiosity, it seems capable of one interpretation. Might this rock not have been the rude mill of old days when the corn was ground in these hollows by hand? The presence of the old "quern" seems to suggest this. However, no explanation is offered as none is known. This suggestion might lead to a possible explanation. Leaving Feaughna Graveyard and the enigmatical rock, a road is seen running straight up Erneen Glen; this is, however, but an accommodation road for the dwellers in the vicinity. The road for the "Priest's Leap" crosses the little bridge over the mountain stream, and leads on for a mile to the last cottage to be met on the R. of the road.

From this place it is not possible to cycle, and the rest of the journey to the head of the pass must be made on foot or horseback. It is a beautiful walk from this point with the great Knockboy Mountain (2321 ft.) overlooking the wild glen on the L., and Boughil, the Reeks, and Mullagh-hattin seem far away over the wooded slopes to the N. Few walks are more enjoyable than this one for those who love lonely mountain scenery. When the summit of the pass is reached, the head of Bantry Bay, with a corner of Whiddy Island, and the plantations around Bantry House break suddenly

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on the view, and the long length of the road runs like a ribbon to the lowlands near Bantry Town.

The "Priest's Leap" takes its name from the legend which tells how in the days when the penal laws were in full swing a priest was saying the forbidden mass on the top of this pass. Suddenly the English soldiers appeared coming up the mountain road from Kenmare, and the priest seeing them, leapt into the saddle and with one bound landed in Bantry. The truth of the story can be proved by the prints of the horse's hoofs in a rock near Bantry Town, and even the mark of the priest's whip, which fell from his hand as he alighted, is still pointed out. After enjoying the view from this pass, it would be well to make for the highest point of the hills on the R., distant 1 m., from which a good view is obtained of Glengariffe Harbour, with its islands and old signal tower, and the woods clothing the shores of this inlet lying beneath.

These mountains form the boundary line between Cork and Kerry, and a delightful return journey might be made by keeping the ridge of the boundary line as far as the "Tunnel" and descending by the main road which leads from Glengariffe to Kenmare. But if the cycle has been left at the hospitable farmer's house at the foot of the "Priest's Leap" this will not be practicable. By whichever route the return is made there will be ample reward for the traveller in the exquisite scenes which meet him at every turn of the road. This expedition to the Priest's Leap may be counted as one of the most, among the many, attractive expeditions to be made from various centres in Kerry.

(4) *Kenmare to Cloonee Lough and Derreen.*
Leaving Kenmare by the Suspension Bridge and

turning to the R., through the woods, which extend for half-a-mile along the shores of the estuary to the open country, which gives views of wonderful beauty, the island of Dinish, on which Mr Herbert has a house, is passed. This is some $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Kenmare. Three m. further on a cross-road branches off to the L., leading, as it seems, to a glen. Leaving this road and continuing a mile further on the main road, the Cloonee loughs appear in view on the left, and 2 m. beyond this, on a promontory overlooking the sea on the R., is Ardea Castle—now a ruin, but once the strong fortress of the O'Sullivan More. The cliffs of shale and sand on which this ruin stands are gradually being washed away, and tradition has it that when this old castle disappears the lakes of Killarney will be no more. Beyond Ardea the road leads to Kilmacilloge Harbour and the long valley of Glenmore. All this is classic ground and connected with the name of Froude and the charming book written by him in this locality, called the "Two Chiefs of Dunboy."

People visiting this romantic region should not fail to read this book, which gives so truly the atmosphere of Kerry, even if the accuracy of its details is not all that might be desired. Derreen is the home of the Marquis of Lansdowne, who has succeeded in creating here a place as near an earthly paradise as is possible. A visitor to Kerry permitted to see the grounds of Derreen will be astonished at the number and variety of the sub-tropical plants which grow and flourish in this favoured spot. As all this is private ground, and not available for everyone, it seems unnecessary to give any lengthened description of it in this "Little Guide."

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Visitors will be amply repaid if they enjoy the drive along Kenmare River as much as the beauty of the scenery leads one to expect they will enjoy it. Should the journey be prolonged over the hills to Castletown, Berehaven, an additional interest will be added. But if this route is not pursued, the return journey must be made direct to Kenmare by the only road which runs along the shores of the bay.

From Loo Bridge to Ballyvourney and back to Morley's Bridge. On the way to Kenmare by rail from Headford there are two stations, Loo Bridge and Morley's Bridge, distant 4 m. A very pleasant and beautiful cycle ride may be enjoyed by leaving the train at Loo Bridge and going up the valley of the Clydagh to Ballyvourney (8 m.). A note should be made of the bridge Poulgorrum (2 m.) from Loo Bridge, where the Flesk River flows between great masses of rock. At Ballyvourney a turn to the R. leads at the back of the Derrynasaggart Mountains to Sillahertane (6 m.), and thence to Morley's Bridge (5 m.). From Morley's Bridge the road leads 9 m. down the valley of the Roughty River to Kenmare.

Carrig-a-Cappeen. Visitors to Kenmare should not omit to visit the singular geological monument called Carrig-a-Cappeen, which consists of a great block of old red sandstone resting on a pillar of limestone 6 ft. in height. Geologists attribute this freak of nature to the action of ice. The site of this monument is about 3 m. outside Kenmare, on the road to Kilgarvan. Following this road past Killowen, Cleady Cottage is reached, and a walk of one-third-of-a-mile brings the tourist to Carrig-a-Cappeen.

Cloghvorragh. On the opposite side of the Roughty River another geological anomaly is to be seen at Cloghvorragh. Here a huge block of limestone rests on the top of an old red sandstone hill 250 ft. above the sea.

Kenmare to Derrycunihy and Killarney. A route recommended to pedestrians, but not to cyclists, is that which leaves Kenmare by the road near the station, and leading up hill by the poorhouse gets to the heights above Beechmount. From there, by an up-and-down road, the traveller passes through the moorlands which stretch from the S.W. slopes of Mangerton on the R. and Peakeen Mountain, which rises 1825 ft. on the L. of the road, and eventually reaches the little chapel of Derrycunihy, sheltered by woods and overlooking the beautiful scenery of the Upper Lake of Killarney. The distance from Kenmare to this chapel is 6 m. A traveller who gives plenty of time for the walk might meet the coach at Derrycunihy, and so journey on to Killarney.

CHAPTER III

SNEEM AND PARKNASILLA

SNEEM lies at the head of a secluded bay into which Ardsheelhane, Sneem, and Owenreagh rivers pour their waters. The two former, joining a short distance above the town, flow under the picturesque bridge in a broken fall to the salt water, which stretches up to the rocks on which the church with the pretty campanile stands. The view from

Sneem Bridge, especially in the evening when the setting sun gives a glow to the warm colours on the hill-sides and on the little campanile, is particularly beautiful.

Approaches. 1. By Waterville, which will be described in the next chapter—Chapter IV.

2. From Kenmare, which is described in Chapter II. of this Guide.

3. Direct from Killarney.

This latter approach presents many attractions to those who wish to enjoy 29 m. of uninterrupted mountain scenery. The first part of this route is by the main road from Killarney *via* Muckross and Derrycunihy to the Windy Gap (16 m.) on the Kenmare-Glengariffe route. At this point the visitor, instead of following the road through the Windy Gap, should take that which leans to the R. somewhat, and runs along the slope overlooking the Owenreagh for half-a-mile to "Moll's" Gap, and on by the small dark lake of Barfinnihy. The scored, seamed side of Boughil (2065 ft.) slopes to this little lough, and the road from there bends round to the R. and runs almost straight over the Blackwater to Sneem (14 m.). A beautiful view is obtained of the mountain range, through which passes the road over Ballyloughbeama to Glencar. The points of Mullagh-tan (2539 ft.) and Beoun (2468 ft.) are conspicuous objects along this route, and the deep glens in the recesses of this mountain chain add variety and interest to the scenery. Approaching Sneem from this direction, care should be taken to note the peculiarity of the formation of some of the hills where the stratification of the rocks appears perpendicular. Very little

planting breaks the scenery, save along the lower reaches of the Blackwater River. But when Sneem is reached the wooded promontories and islands come in view, and the landscape changes its character. The little village, built in an irregular form, with a fine open space, is of the ordinary character, and the chief interest centres round the chapel and bridge. Two m. E. from Sneem is Parknasilla, meaning the "meadow of willows," and the residence of a former bishop of Limerick, now turned into an hotel. The view from the Southern Hotel, a modern structure built in a commanding position, is attractive from the combination of wood and sea and mountain which meets the eye at every point. To the W. lies Sherky Island, between which and the mainland is a good anchorage, where His Majesty's destroyer flotilla frequently lies. A mile to the N.W. is Garinish Island, where Lord Dunraven has a house surrounded by a variety of heaths and shrubs which make the resemblance to the Riviera of this secluded quarter more marked than ever.

1. *Sneem to Rossdohan.* One of the most interesting places in the neighbourhood of Sneem is Rossdohan Island, belonging to Mr Heard. Here, within a comparatively few years, a barren island has become a paradise of rare shrubs and plants from Australia, New Zealand, and Japan. The Austrian pines which have been planted, and flourish, give shelter to a number of wattles, blue gums, Australian bottlebrush, dracænas, and a host of rare things. Here also the *Datura* flowers in the open. Should permission be granted to view these beautiful grounds, the lover of plants and flowers will find a world of interest.

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In the secluded bays, where the tide washes the fronds of the osmunda ferns, will be found innumerable specimens of rare shrubs and plants, whilst the views from the different points present pictures which make the artist almost envious. Across the broad stretch of Kenmare River can be seen the old ruins of Ardea Castle, and the entrance to the tempting region around Kilmacilloge Harbour.

2. *Sneem and Kilmacilloge.* A journey across the bay by boat to Kilmacilloge can be recommended as a delightful summer trip, and there are many expeditions to be made from Sneem and Parknasilla as a centre to places which have been noticed in this Guide — notably to Derrynane, Staigue Fort, and Coad. Many others recommended in the local guide books are also full of interest, whether the visitor elects to climb the mountains or to drive or cycle by the excellent roads which are to be found throughout this district.

3. *Sneem or Parknasilla to "The Pocket."* The "pocket" is a deep hollow or "coum" in the range of hills which lie to the N. of Sneem. The actual position of this place is between the heights of Mullaghahattin and Beoun, and the best way to get to it is by the direct road from Sneem to Killarney as far as the upper Blackwater Bridge (8 m. from Sneem). Half-a-mile beyond this bridge a road branches off the main road to the left, leading to the Balloughbeama Pass and Glencar. This road should be followed for 1 m., when another bridge is crossed, and the rather rough road bearing nearly W. is seen branching from the main road. Three m. along this road a

few houses are met, and from this point the road becomes little more than a mountain byeway, leading to the depths of the hills. On the R. front the traveller will see Mullaghahattin (2539 ft.), and on the L. front Beoun (2468 ft.). The semicircle of hills in front forming the "Pocket" cannot be mistaken. The track leads right into this recess and ends at a ruined house. A small stream flows through this lonely spot, and the hills about it present a strange and wild appearance with their precipitous rocky sides streaked here and there with vivid green growth. The return journey could be made on foot over the western ridge of hills between the points of Faher Mountain and Eskine, but it is almost impossible to push a bicycle by this rough route, though it has been done.

CHAPTER IV

WATERVILLE

ONE of the most fascinating parts of all West Kerry is that which lies around the little village of Waterville, and which may not inaptly be called "The Waterville District."

Approaches. 1. The good coach road from Kenmare (36 m.), which runs by Parknasilla, Sneem, and the beautiful bit of rock-bound coast which extends on to Darrynane and the pass of Coomakista, is perhaps the best route to take when making the tour for the first time.

2. But the approach from the N. from Cahir-

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civeen (10 m.) has the merit of shortness for the driving part of the journey. This route, from the junction at Farranore along by the Riviera-like bit of coast to Cahirciveen, will be described in Chapter V. of this Guide. Should the traveller intend going on from Waterville round the coast to Kenmare, care should be taken to choose a fine day for the journey from Waterville to Darrynane. The view from the top of the Coomakista Pass is one which requires fine weather. It comprises near at hand the miniature harbour of Darrynane, the islands of Scariff, Deenish, and the "Two-headed Island," and Abbey Island, and far away the wave-washed shores of Dursey and the "Bull and Cow" rocks.

3. A third way to approach Waterville is by road from Killarney to Glencar (20 m.), and thence over the Balloughisheen Pass, and down the Inny Valley to Spunkane Chapel, overlooking the bay of Ballinskelligs (25 m.). The whole of this distance would be 45 m., but a break in the journey might be made at Glencar.

1. Waterville consists of a long street of well-built comfortable houses facing the sea, and a few equally comfortable-looking hotels, a post office, constabulary barrack, a church, and a number of shops, which sell most things useful. Many of the houses in the place are held by the employees of the Commercial Cable Company, which has a large establishment in Waterville, occupying a conspicuous position on the rising ground N. of the village on the road to Cahirciveen. Opposite the "Butler Arms Hotel" is a beautiful Celtic cross, erected to the memory of the late James Butler, Esq., of Waterville House. Waterville

lies within a stone's-throw of the waters of Ballinskelligs Bay, and the murmur of the sea is ever present in and around the place. Situated on the shore, commanding a fine view of Bolus Head to the W. and Hog's Head to the S., and with a background of mountains beyond the lake, which lies 1 m. from the town, Waterville may be said to be one of the most healthful places in Kerry; and it possesses a strong attraction, although the country around is, for the most part, a treeless waste. There is a peculiar charm in the quiet colouring and the combination of sea and mountain which occurs about here. The little river which leads the waters of the Lake Currane to the sea is the property of the Butlers of Waterville House, and the weir which supplies them with salmon for sale and for use was granted by charter in the days of King John.

1. *Lough Currane.* The big lake to which the eager fisherman resorts as soon as the season opens is about a mile to the S.E. of the village. Following the long street southwards a bridge is crossed close to Waterville House, and about 200 yards beyond this a road branches off to the L. by a small plantation. This road, passing the "Southern Hotel" on the L., leads by the S. shore of the lake to the heart of the mountains, where the traveller may make his way by rough mountain tracks over the hills to Staigue Fort or Sneem—the track to Staigue Fort being fairly easy; that to Sneem being barely traceable, and very difficult. (See further on in this Guide.) For the present, however, Lough Currane must claim attention. This lake, so unlike all the other lakes in the colouring of its attendant hills and in the bare,

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solemn loveliness of its appearance, is the second largest lake in Kerry. It is 8 m. in circumference, and its extreme length is $3\frac{1}{4}$ m. and its breadth 2 m. As a salmon and trout lough it has long maintained a reputation amongst fishermen second to none. It is said that the best and biggest fish run in November at a time when the annual close time precludes their lawful capture. The open season is from 1st February to the 1st November.

2. *Church Island.* A row of about 1 m. from the foot of the lake takes the traveller to "Church Island," a most attractive and interesting place. On this little islet there is the ruined church and cell of St Finan. On a bright, sunny day, when the lake lies calm and still under the shadow of Knockaline (the great hill beyond to the E.), it would be hard to find any place which brings more vividly to the mind the sense of peace. It was a fitting resting-place for those Celtic Christians who were eminently men of peace in the midst of a troubled world, and "Sons of God" according to the beautiful beatitude—

"Beati pacifici quia filii Dei vocabuntur."

There has been some discussion as to the exact founder of the church on this island. St Finan the leper—he who founded the abbey of Innisfallen—has been fixed upon as the right St Finan by Lord Dunraven in his learned book on Irish Antiquities. But others incline to the idea that it was St Finan the Crooked—so-called from a squint with which he was afflicted. At any rate it was St Finan, and it is probably the same St Finan whose name is perpetuated in so many places in the district—St Finan's Bay, St Finan's Glen, and Darrynane,

which means the "Oak Grove of St Finan." The church is Romanesque, with a round, arched doorway and mouldings in a good state of preservation. This style of architecture is not necessarily Norman. It was introduced into Ireland before the Norman conquest, and is probably, as to date, cœval with the round, arched Saxon architecture found in England. In many cases these Romanesque churches replaced, almost on the same spot, churches of a ruder style of architecture, thus carrying on the continuity of tradition connected with a particular locality. The old crosses graven on great slabs of stone, and used as tombstones to the present day, should be specially noticed. The Celtic inscriptions are clearly cut, and can possibly be read and interpreted by students of that language. Inside the little, ruined church is preserved the rude carved figure of a man playing some instrument of music. It seems as if there had been a large number of buildings at one time on this island for foundations, and here and there a defined enclosure appears everywhere amidst the rank grass which clothes the ground.

Lough Currane stretches far into the deep Glenmore, and a stream joins it at the head coming from the smaller Lough Isknagaheny or Coppul Lake. The main feeder of the lake, however, is the Cummeragh River, which, rising in the Derryana and Cloonaghlin lakes, flows S.W. to join Lough Currane at its northern end.

II. *Waterville to Glencar by the Balloughisheen Pass.* This journey is by general consent so well worth making that no excuse need be offered for recommending it to notice. On leaving Waterville by the road which goes direct to Cahirciveen,



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the chapel of Spunkane is reached, 2 m. distant from Waterville. At this point the road which turns to the R. at R. angles to the Waterville-Cahirciveen road and leads almost straight for the distant hills in the E. should be followed. About 7 m. from Spunkane Chapel the road commences to ascend the slope, and the hills seem as though they were gradually enveloping it. Here is the head of the valley of the Inny. A mountain bulwark, crossed by the Balloughisheen Pass, divides it from the wide valley which, with many glens and offshoots, extends eastwards to the "Reeks," and forms the great and beautiful district of Glencar. Balloughisheen Pass is 997 ft. above the sea. On reaching the summit it would be well to pause awhile and view the scenery in each direction.

Looking W. across the broad, brown bog-land, where the Inny shimmers like a silver thread in the sun, you mark the bold headlands of Ballinskelligs Bay and the Atlantic beyond. The nearer slopes of the mountains, with the gorge torn in the side of the hill by winter floods, emphasise the distance and give a feeling of space and air which is specially impressive.

Turning to the E. through the gap on the summit of the pass, the valley of Glencar is seen lying like a map beneath. Beyond the flat russet of the lowland rises Carrantuohill (3414 ft.), and rather to the L., the beginning of the woods which mark the head of Caragh Lake and Glencar. The woods around Glencar, however, cannot be seen from the summit of the pass, the shoulder of Knocknagapple blocking the view. At first the road descends somewhat abruptly, but after half-a-mile the descent is gradual

and the surface of the road good. About 2 m. from the top of the pass, Colly Mountain (2238 ft.) will be seen on the L. at the head of a glen. Onwards the road leads ever down hill; over two pretty bridges and round many a turn, which gives a glimpse into the depths of various glens, till at last the bridge of Bealalaw is reached, 4 m. from the head of the pass. At this point a road branching off to the R. leads to the pass of Balloughbeama, and thence to Kenmare, described in Chapter VII. of this Guide; whilst the one on the L. over the bridge goes up by the schoolhouse of Cirrochbeg, and on eventually to Killorglin or Killarney. At this point a turn to the L. leads past the gates of Glencar Hotel, and on to a cross-road where stands a small public-house (2 m. from Bealalaw Bridge. Here four roads meet. That on the R. goes by Acoose Lake to either Killarney or Killorglin; that on the L. to Lickeen Bridge and over the Windy Gap to Glenbeigh, described in Chapter VII. of this Guide; whilst the steep road, the continuation of the one by which the traveller came from Bealalaw Bridge, leads in many ups and downs and by the sharp "Devil's Elbow" to the Caragh Lake. (See Chapter VII.)

Glencar is the name given to all the beautiful district of lake and river, of birch, Scots fir, and holly woods, which lies in the heart of the mountains at the head of Caragh Lake. It was all the territory of the MacCarthy More in the days of old, and from this district some say he took his title when Queen Elizabeth raised him to the peerage as a rival to the great Geraldine chief;

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others, however, assert that the title had no territorial connection, being merely Earl of Clan-Carty, corrupted into Clancar. The river at Glencar—the Upper Caragh, as it is sometimes called—has long been famous for its salmon fishing, and the woods around present all the appearance of woodcock coverts, but the shooting has been spoiled by cattle wandering at will through the plantations, and by the want of proper preservation.

III. *Waterville to Darrynane.* Leaving Waterville by the road which runs due S. through the village, and crossing the bridge ($\frac{3}{4}$ m.) over the Currane River, a cross-road is met on the L. hand side, a mile from the village. This road leads along by the shores of Lough Currane to end in the hills at the head of the lake, whence a foot-way leads over the heights to Staigue Fort. Continuing the journey along the main coast route for a distance of 300 yards, four huge stones are seen standing upright on a slight rise on the L. hand side. This group of prehistoric monuments, which are said to have belonged to the age of the Druids, or to the mystic age of the heroes of Erin, in later days marked the place where Mass was said. These four “gallauns” or upright stones go by the name of “Tempul na Cuillah.” Half-a-mile farther on, the road bends to the R. and crosses a bridge over a little mountain streamlet, the Finglass, issuing from a dark “Coom,” at the far end of which a waterfall is seen in rainy weather. The same or a similar legend appertaining to Curoi of Daire and Blanaid, which has been given in the chapter on Dingle, attaches to this river (see Chapter IX.).

The road from this point gradually rises and opens out fine views of the bay of Ballinskelligs and Bolus Head, the northern point of the mainland, with the Great Skellig Rock, rising out of the sea 12 m. distant. When the little chapel of Lohar (3 m.), standing on the heights over the bay, is passed on the R. hand side, the small Skellig opens out beyond Bolus Head, and as the road gradually ascends the mountain, the grandeur of the scenery becomes more impressive. About 4 m. from Waterville, and when nearing the head of the Coomakista Pass, a rough bridle path on the L., called "O'Connell's Ride," is passed. By this track the "Liberator" was wont to travel when journeying from Cahirciveen to his home at Darrynane.

Shortly after passing this green footway and going for a quarter of a mile, the highest point of Coomakista Pass is attained, and a view opens to the S. which is hard to describe in words. The suddenness with which it breaks on the traveller, and the beauty of it, baffle adequate description. Far to the S. lies the long line of the Slieve Miskish Mountains in County Cork, part of the southern boundary of the Kenmare River, ending in the promontory of Dursey Head and the "Bull" and "Cow" rocks pushing out still farther into the ocean. Nearer, and extending almost to the base of the hills, is a varied and beautiful bit of coast-line, comprising the bay and islands of Darrynane, where, on a rocky point amidst wind-blown sand dunes washed by the sea, stands the little ruined church and monastery of St Finan.

The islands of Deenish and Scariff stand boldly

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out to the W., and smaller islets, the "Two Headed Island" and Moylaun, break the full force of the waves before the sands of Darrynane are reached. Lamb's Head bounds this attractive bit of coast on the S. The warm colour of the rocks and heathery slopes makes a fine bit of contrast with the blue of the sea and the white foam around the rocks and cliffs.

(1) *Darrynane*. The road from the summit of this pass opens out view upon view as the traveller descends the southern side, till about 2 m. from the highest point a branch road to the R. leads down a sharp incline, amidst a mass of hollies, birches, and oaks, to Darrynane, the home of Daniel O'Connell, Esq., the grandson of the great Liberator. The house, sheltered by the wooded slopes on the N., stands on a slight rise overlooking the sandhills and the bay, a pleasant situation, which combines wood and mountain and sea with the ever-engrossing interest which pertains to a spot where most things will grow—bamboos, New Zealand flax, Arum lilies, and many varieties of shrubs, which less favoured places can only keep alive with difficulty, flourish here. In the gardens, which seem to mingle with the surrounding woods, is shown the caves where the smugglers in old days hid their treasure. A mile away to the W., along the road which leads past the entrance gates of Darrynane, is the sheltered little harbour where many a good cargo of claret and silk was landed from France, and where the smugglers' craft were able to play hide-and-seek with the revenue cutters.

"Abbey Island"—an island now no longer, being connected with the mainland by silted sand—

lies close to the harbour, and a visit from this point should be made to the ruined abbey of St Finan. On this island, as well as on the neighbouring hills near Darrynane, the rare plant "*Simethis bicolor*" is to be found. The abbey presents a good example of the early Christian architecture of Ireland. But there are evidences that the church and the monastic buildings were built at different periods. Darrynane, in Irish "*Doire Fhionain*," means "St Finan's Oak Wood," and the proper spelling of the present name is *Darrynane*. St Finan, the patron saint of this part of the country, has been described as "the Sun of Virtue and Sound Doctrine, sending his rays far and near over this island of Saints," and his memory is perpetuated in this lone ruin as well as in the ruined church on the island in Lough Currane, near Waterville, and in "St Finan's Bay" and "St Finan's Glen," all within the area of Ballinskelligs and Darrynane. This abbey was at one time in the occupation of the Austin Canons Regular, and possibly the present pile of buildings was of this later period, occupying the same site as an earlier foundation bearing the name of the saint. Returning past the entrance gates of Darrynane, the road to Caherdaniel may be followed direct along the foot of the hills ($2\frac{1}{2}$ m.), or, by ascending the steep incline, by the main road. The latter is rather a roundabout way, but presents the attraction of somewhat more extended views.

Caherdaniel. Caherdaniel consists of a small cluster of houses with a church on a rise over a river, and surrounded by beautiful fuchsia hedges. The village stands at the entrance of a semicircle of hills facing the S., and takes its name from an old

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fort or "caher," situated about a mile W. of the village, on the R. hand side of the main road from Waterville. This old "caher" is said to be Danish by some people, but it presents an exactly similar appearance to the forts of "Caher Gal" and "Staigue," which are now believed to belong to the period of Irish history just prior to the Christian era.

IV. *Caherdaniel to Sneem.* Before leaving the neighbourhood of Caherdaniel it would be well to visit the peninsula which runs out to Lamb Head, and forms the southern boundary of the pretty secluded bay of Darrynane. A quarter of a mile S. of Caherdaniel village a road branches off from the main road and leads along the N. side of this promontory. For a mile and a half it is possible to bicycle, after which the journey must be made on foot. This road affords a particularly good view of Darrynane, sheltered by its wooded slopes, of Scariff and Deenish islands, and the cliffs and sea. It is so short a way out of the main route, and is so pleasing a diversion, that it must be recommended to all visitors. Recently a good many specimens of copper ore have been found on this peninsula. Rejoining the main road once more, and leaving the Presbytery on the right, a slight descent leads to the bay of Glenbeg, with a sugar-loaf shaped mountain on its E. side (2 m.) called Peakeen.

Across the Kenmare River from this point are seen the Slieve Miskish Mountains in County Cork, the chief points, noting them from the W., being Knockagallaun (1242 ft.), Knockgour (1580 ft.), Knockoura (1610 ft.), and

Miskish (1272 ft.), the latter being just a little W. of a line drawn over Kilcatherine Point to the white houses which mark the neighbourhood of Eyries, on the S. side of Kenmare River. It was in the little cove of Glenbeg, or as it is called sometimes "Rath Strand," that Partholan, one of the very early invaders of Ireland, landed when the world was young—the "Annals of the Four Masters" puts the age of the world at 2520 years—and that means that Partholan came with his warriors 1000 years before the Milesians. However true all this may be, legend points still to the spot where the first reconnoitring boat's crew put to shore; and the cove goes by the name of the "inlet of the boat's crew" to this day.

Legend further states that a party of Partholan's men went along the shores to find a landing-place for the rest of the host, and from the next cove to Glenbeg they waved branches of trees to their comrades to signify that a suitable place had been found, and this cove is called in Celtic to the present time the "cove of the branches." But each one must gather the legends of this interesting county for himself, and it will greatly add to the pleasure of a tour in Kerry. Continuing along the road for a mile, the rock and islet-studded inlet of "West Cove" is seen, near which place it is said a fight occurred between Cromwell's soldiers and the Irish. A road turning to the L. leads by a gradual ascent to the Chapel of Coad, which can be seen on the hill slope to the L. This little ruin is dedicated to St Crohane, who is the patron saint of this particular locality. There is nothing very interesting about the ruin, which is on the same plan as most of the early

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Christian churches at Ballinskelligs and Darrynane. The piscina arch is formed of two flat stones, pointed, and extremely rude. The E. window has a slab of stone, cutting it in half in the form of a cross. The graveyard is badly kept, and skulls and bones in niches present a gruesome appearance. Near the W. end of the church a huge ash tree shades a holy well. Returning to the main road once more, and going direct E. for a mile and a half, the little village of Castle Cove is reached, consisting of a few houses.

Staigue Fort is seen far up in a glen on the L. ($1\frac{1}{2}$ m.). This celebrated building can be visited *en route* to Sneem from this point. The name Staigue is said to be derived from "Staic," which is equivalent to "Stack" or "Reek." This fort has been attributed to the Phœnicians—this, however, is doubtful, and it is much more likely to be of the same period, and connected with the same legendary history as the forts of similar construction to be found in other parts of Ireland—the period which saw the end of the heroic age and the dawn of the Christian era. Staigue Fort stands on a commanding eminence between 400 and 500 ft. over the sea. It lies in a sort of amphitheatre of high hills open to the sea on the S. side, and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the main road. Its walls are 18 ft. high at the N. and S. sides, and 12 ft. thick at the base, and 7 ft. thick at the top. The "fort" is 89 ft. in diameter. No one can fail to be struck with the massive masonry and the perfect building of this fort, and it is justly regarded as one of the most interesting archæological remains in Ireland. From the point where the road to Staigue

branches off, the main route to Sneem continues for another 2 m. along by the sea, then turning N.E. runs inland for 4 m. through a pretty varied highland country to the pass of Beaulameana. Here a fine view opens of wild highland country. The points of Coomcallee and Knocknagantee rise on the L. front, and eastwards, down in the valley, can be seen the little town of Sneem. Four miles of good road, all down hill, leads to the village, with its beautiful bridge, and campanile of the chapel reminding one of an Italian village.

Waterville, by Glenmore and the Mountains, to Staigue Fort and Sneem. A delightful excursion may be made by driving or walking due E. along the southern shore of Lough Currane, past the Arbutus Rock and Cappamore to the Upper Lake, called Coppul or Iskagahiny, and then by a poorly defined bridle-path across the hills to Staigue Fort. The whole distance covered by this expedition would be $7\frac{1}{2}$ m. It would be well to send a car round by the Coomakista Pass to meet the tourist at Castle Cove village, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Staigue Fort.

Castle Cove. The village of Castle Cove takes its name from an ancient tower which stands unfinished by the edge of the sea. The story goes that long ages ago a man and his wife lived in the glen leading to Staigue Fort. The lady, being ambitious, wished to have a "castle" to live in, such as others greater than she possessed in the old Kingdom of Kerry. Her husband resisted all her entreaties, deeming the more humble dwelling adequate for their wants. On one occasion, however, he went off on a foray or an excursion of some kind, and his wife

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set to work and built what still is seen of the Castle at the Cove. When she had almost finished the work her husband returned, and, in a rage at having been outwitted, he forbade another stone being laid on the building, and so it has remained in its present state. All this happened some 300 years ago, and the names of the people whom this legend connects with the castle are not known. A curious thing about the building is the appearance of there having been a gable-ended building attached to the tower. This is, however, only a peculiarity of the structure.

Waterville to Sneem over the Mountains. To those who are fairly good walkers, and able to find ill-defined out-of-the-way tracks over the hills, there are attractions in this route. A road leads from Waterville along the S. shore of Lough Currane and along by Isknagahiny Lake to the heart of Glenmore. At the head of the latter lake the road crosses a streamlet, and becomes little more than a rough cart track leading to a couple of farm-houses surrounded by fuchsia hedges. The hills form a complete amphitheatre at this point, and to the S. present a forbidding appearance to travellers. Bare inclined ledges of rock seem to afford no way for a traveller to cross the ridge; but a small gap will be noted in the range to the S., and a scarce noticeable footway leads by scaur and stream to the summits. The ridge is narrow, and once on the top Sneem is seen 4 m. away to the S.E., and the descent to the main road, near Beaulameana Pass, is easily accomplished.

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CHAPTER V

CAHIRCIVEEN

THIS little town of 2000 inhabitants is said to derive its name from Sabina, or Sive, a daughter of the great chieftain Owen More, Cathair Saidhbhin, or Cahirciveen, meaning the castle or fort of Sabina, or Sive. It stands on the shore of the in-wash from Valencia Harbour, and under the shadow of Bantee (1245 ft.), which rises somewhat abruptly on the S. side of the town.

Approaches. (1) The line of rail from Caragh Lake affords pretty views of the river Caragh on the L. till Dook's Station is reached. To the N.E. of this station, and 2 m. distant, are the golf links, amidst the sand dunes which fringe the shores of Castlemaine Bay. The next station going W. is Glenbeigh, famous for many years past for its comfortable sportsman's hotel and the sea-bathing to be obtained at Rossbeigh, 3 m. to the W. From Glenbeigh the railway line gradually ascends the partially wooded slope of Behy Mountain, which forms the northern boundary of the broad valley of Glenbeigh, the Behy River being on the L. hand. The old mail-car road runs on the far side of the stream as it is looked at from the train towards the head waters, and crosses it 3 m. from Glenbeigh to touch the railway line at "Mountain Stage" Station. The Behy River rises in the semicircle of mountains which form the western end of the Glenbeigh Valley. The highest points of these mountains regarded from the train, and beginning from the left, are as follow:—

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Beenreagh, 1628 ft.; Maclaun, 1998 ft.; Knocknahan, 1835 ft.; Coomacarrea, 2541 ft.; Mullaghnacakill, 2182 ft.; Been Hill, 2199 ft.; and Drung Hill, 2104 ft., the latter being on the extreme N. end of the amphitheatre overlooking "Mountain Stage" Station and the waters of Dingle Bay.

In the folds of these hills, and hidden from road and railway, are three lakes of great beauty—Coomasaharn, under the shadow of Coomacarrea Mountain; Coomaglaslaw and Coomacronia, under the steep slopes of Mullaghnacakill and Been Hill. A tramp across the bog land and small pastures from "Mountain Stage" (3 m.) will reveal the beauties of these lonely loughs to the traveller. From the last-named station the line of railway gradually descends an incline along the face of the hills overhanging the cliffs, where the sea breaks in white foam, and affords an extraordinarily fine view of Dingle Bay and the whole range of mountains from the Blasket Islands, far off in the W., to Caherconree, away to the E. of the Dingle peninsula. It is worth making a journey to Cahirciveen on a fine day for the sole purpose of seeing this view. Four miles of this sea, cliff, and mountain scenery are passed before the train swings S. at the point where the Coast Guard Station and sheltered harbour of Kells are seen below on the right. The woods around the home of Mr Ponsonby Blennerhassett give a pleasing variety to the moorland scene which meets the view. In these woods the tree ferns grow luxuriantly. Inland and upwards the line now trends to Kells Station, where the broad valley of the Ferta opens out on the L., and Knocknatubber rises 2267 ft.

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on the R. Seven miles of an incline down the N. side of the Ferta Valley brings the traveller to Cahirciveen. The imposing edifice near the railway station, bringing to mind a Border keep, is the barrack of the Royal Irish Constabulary, built after the Fenian days of 1867. The great church which stands high, and with its attendant convent dominates the town, was built by the donations of the Catholic people throughout the world to perpetuate the memory of the "Liberator," Daniel O'Connell, whose efforts secured Catholic emancipation. This great church, though unfinished, is well worth a visit, and a stranger will find a courteous welcome if he wishes to see examples of the beautiful knitting and lace-work which is carried on under the supervision of the Sisters in the convent school close to the church.

(2) Another way of approaching Cahirciveen is by way of Waterville, a route described elsewhere in this Guide when dealing with the journey from Cahirciveen to Waterville (Chapter IV.).

Cahirciveen to Valencia. Two miles to the W. of the town by rail, and two and a half by road, lies Valencia Harbour, a small collection of houses where a ferry-boat awaits passengers to convey them to Valencia Island. A description of Valencia Island, and the points of interest thereon, will be found further on in this Guide (Chapter VI.), and it is unnecessary to refer to that excursion here.

Cahirciveen to Ballycarbery Castle and Cahergal. Those who care for old historical buildings will find a visit to the above places extremely interesting. Crossing the bridge, near the

Constabulary Barrack, over the estuary of the Ferta, where the tides hurry and boil in their passage, the road rises for a quarter of a mile till a cross-road is met. The traveller should take the road to the L., which leads down hill for a mile. In front, as he proceeds, will be seen a massive pile standing out, gaunt and lonely, over the shallow tidal arm of the harbour. This is Ballycarbery Castle, built some time in the 15th century, and for a long time one of the chief strongholds of the MacCarthy More. A Carberry O'Shea is said to have built the castle, and from his family it passed to MacCarthy More, and after that to the O'Connells, in whose possession it still remains. Up to the time of Queen Elizabeth it was regularly inhabited. Then war and evil days came and the castle was left desolate. But tradition says it was occupied again in the days of Cromwell, and that the forces of the Lord Protector battered it into its present condition with guns from the tide way, which flows up to within a short distance of the outer walls. The O'Connells were hereditary constables of this old keep, and from the following story appear to have been fairly independent of their overlord, MacCarthy More. When "fosterage" was the custom in Ireland, carried on in spite of all forbidding laws, the chief of the clan MacCarthy sent the usual cradle to Ballycarbery by a messenger. This was the hint to the O'Connells to send for the child of the chief to "foster." But in place of sending for the child the O'Connell sent the head of the messenger back in the cradle, and this led to trouble and to one of the hereditary constables being hanged by the angry MacCarthy More. Such is the story. The wall which originally contained the inner

building, forming a sort of courtyard, is in parts in a good state of preservation, and is built of massive masonry. The old gateway in the main building displays the narrow slit for the portcullis. In some of the windows parts of the old mullions remain which have the appearance of latter 15th-century architecture. The stone domed roofs of the upper chambers contain curious openings pierced through the masonry—possibly for ventilation. The whole building presents a picturesque and imposing appearance, and is a fine example of the architecture of the period of Irish history to which it belongs.

Cahergal. A few fields to the N. of the old castle of Ballycarbery stands the fort of Cahergal or Cahergel—meaning either the “fort of the stranger” or the “white fort,” according as “gal” or “gel” is accepted as the terminal. Next to Staigue Fort, which is dealt with in another part of this Guide, this building presents perhaps the most perfect example of the dry wall masonry to be found in Kerry. Circular in shape, the wall measures 14 ft. in height in places, and is 18 ft. in thickness. The diameter of the fort is 86 ft. As regards the age of this building, it is believed to be one of those “cahers” which mark the highest point of the Irish heroic age which extended down to the first century of the Christian era. Almost all these forts are connected with the heroes who formed the Knights of the Red Branch and surrounded Connor M’Nessa, much in the way that the Knights of the Round Table surrounded King Arthur. When Christianity came to the island the early missionaries, in most instances, were welcomed by the chiefs, and within these sombre

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walls were built the churches and cells of the holy men.

Returning from Cahergal to the cross-road before mentioned above the bridge at Cahirciveen, a pleasant bicycle ride may be enjoyed by following the road which leads E. (3 m.) to the creek of Coonana, at the foot of Knocknatubber, a little fishing haven named according to legend after the mother of the hero Finn M'Coul. Here it is said that "Conn of the hundred battles" fought many a fight in days of old. Knocknatubber (2266 ft.) rises on the R. of the small harbour, and beyond, across the bay, can be seen the hills around Dingle. At the foot of Knocknatubber, and a short mile from the harbour of Coonana, is a holy well from which the mountain takes its name. A clear stream of water gushes out of the hill side, widening into a natural basin and falling over a little shelving ledge on its passage to the broader stream and the sea. From this holy well a line of crosses marking the "Stations of the Cross" leads by a rugged, ill-defined route to the summit of Knocknatubber, where stands a large rood against the sky. These "Stations of the Cross" were put up by the late parish priest of Cahirciveen. The return journey from Coonana can be made by way of Deelis Bridge, which crosses the Ferta River 3 m. from Cahirciveen N.E.

(3) *Cahirciveen to St Finan's Glen and Ballinskelligs.* Though this attractive tour can be made equally well from Waterville, it is here given as a possible excursion from Cahirciveen. Journeying along the main road towards Waterville for 2 m., a bridge is crossed and a branch road leads to the R. Following this road for $\frac{1}{4}$ m. and

turning to the L., at the first cross a gradual incline leads along the slope of low hills, past a small bit of plantation, to the summit of a pass from which a fine view is obtained looking N. of Brandon and Mount Eagle with just a glimpse of Dingle Bay over the expanse of Valencia Harbour. A good road down the far side of the pass opens up a view of Ballinskelligs Bay, with Hog's Head and Scariff Island to the S.W., and beyond these points, and far away in the distance, is Dursey Island and the Bull and Cow Rocks, standing well out seaward. Three miles more of a good road leads to the pass of Emlagh, at which point it is well to pause and view the land once more. Eastwards and far away are seen the points of Carrantuohill and Beenkeragh and the line of the Dunkerron Mountains to Knockaline, at the base of which, and seen like a streak of silver, lies Lough Currane. Waterville village, on the shores of Ballinskelligs Bay, can be clearly discerned on what is called the "hither" side of the lake.

Turning to the N., St Finan's Bay is seen beyond the glen called after the same saint. The N. side of this bay is blocked by Puffin Island, and out to sea and W. of Puffin lie the Great Skellig (Skellig Michael) and the Lesser Skellig Island, the latter from this particular point being in direct line with the former, and hence not seen so distinctly. The road descends from the pass of Emlagh rather abruptly through the glen to a bit of sand at a delightful creek. Here the road turns back in a loop and begins to rise towards the W. in the direction of Ducalla Head. At the cross-road (1 m.) take the L. hand course (the continuation of the road towards

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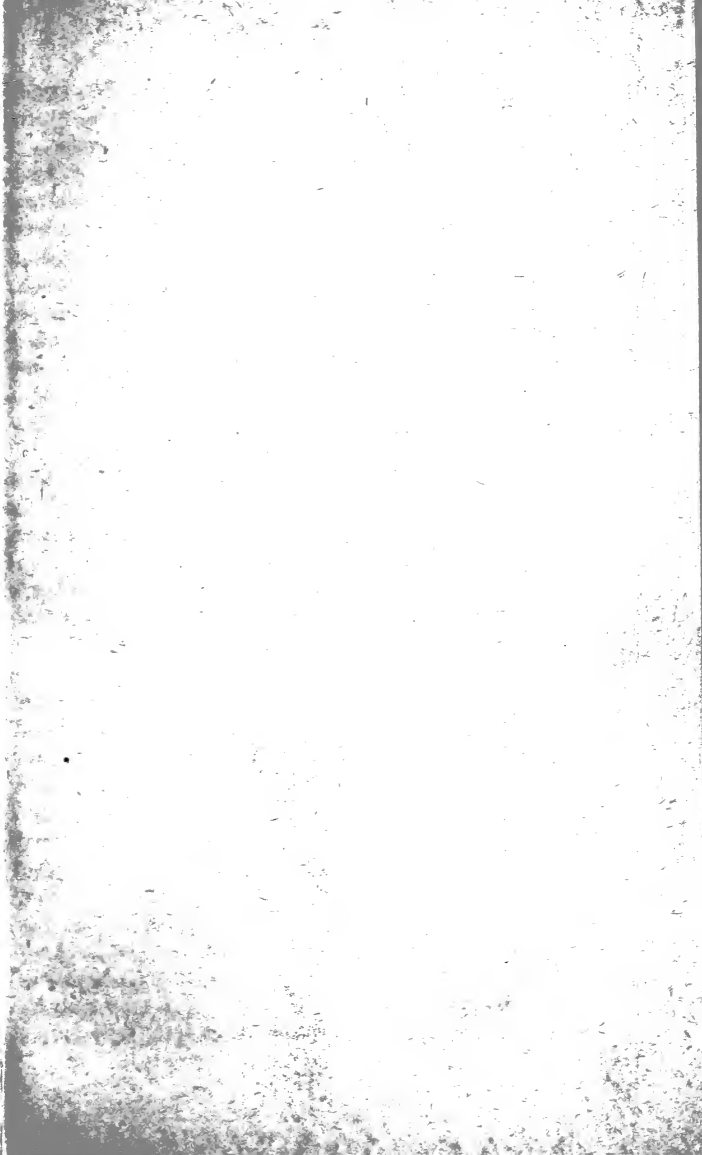
Ducalla Head ends in a *cul de sac*), and at the head of the pass, a half-mile farther on, the Skelligs will be seen to great advantage. This road descends the southern slope of the hills to Ballinskelligs, meeting the main road from that village to Cahirciveen and Waterville. At Ballinskelligs a visit should be paid to the little Abbey Church standing in ruins on the shores of the bay, its eastern foundations washed by the tides. It is not known accurately when this abbey, dedicated to St Michael the Archangel, was founded, but it belonged at one time to the Augustine Canons, and tradition says that the monks who lived on the Great Skellig Michael came hither in later days. Special note should be made of the old stone font in the interior of this ruined church.

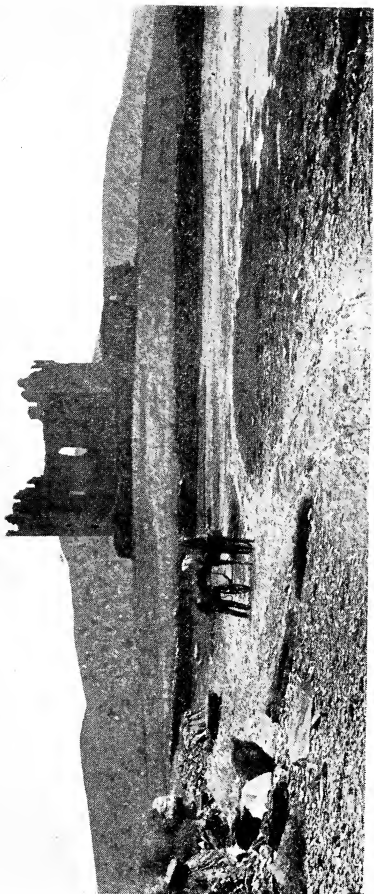
Most of the abbeys of the period of this one seem to have belonged to the Canons of St Augustine, and probably date from the coming of St Augustine's mission to England to the gradual reform of the Celtic Church by the missionaries of the better organised and more vigorous Church of Rome. It is the period which saw the struggle between St Wilfred and St Chad in England, and the disputes about the Paschal Feast and the tonsure. This would put the establishment of these Augustinian abbeys to the period from the end of the 6th to the early and middle part of the 7th centuries of our era. The Augustine missionaries came and imparted fresh life and vigour into the old established monastic institutions founded by Celtic saints, and brought them into closer connection with the centre of Christianity. Munster came under the renovated Roman discipline in the early half of the 7th century. From the very early years of the Christian era

there had been groups of isolated Christians in Ireland, but it was not until Pope Celestine sent Palladius as first bishop that they came under any definite rule. After St Patrick's days, the Irish Church retained the old method of computing Easter, and did not adopt the new method which St Hilary, the Pope, had enforced throughout the greater part of the Western Catholic Church. But when Pope Honorius exhorted the Munster Church "not to think their small numbers, placed in the utmost border of the earth, wiser than all the ancient and modern churches of Christ throughout the world," the bishops of that Church quickly accepted the Roman reforms.

Near the village of Ballinskelligs is the well of St Michael ($1\frac{1}{2}$ m. E.), where a "pattern" or festa in honour of the saint is held each year.

Hard by the old abbey on a low sandspit stands a ruined castle built to guard the haven. From the abbey a fine view of sea and mountain presents itself, extending from the Iveragh Mountains along to the S.E. to Knockaline, and thence S. by Coomakista to Hog's Head and Scariff Island. A small island at the entrance of Ballinskelligs Bay gives shelter to a tolerably safe anchorage for the fishing-boats which come periodically to these waters. Ballinskelligs possesses a station of the "Direct United States" Telegraph Company, and a good hotel which, facing S., gets the full benefit of the sun. In the sheltered sandy caves near the village fair bathing is possible, and few pleasanter localities for a sojourn can be imagined than the neighbourhood of this bright, clean village, with its interesting ruined abbey and its beautiful sea. The return





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journey to Cahirciveen or Waterville can be made by the direct road (12 m.).

Cahirciveen to St Finan's Glen viâ Portmagee. The visit to St Finan's Glen, which has been described above, might also be made by taking the road direct from Cahirciveen to Portmagee (11 m.). Portmagee is a collection of a few fishermen's houses at the western entrance of Valencia Harbour. From this place it is possible to visit the Skelligs Rocks on a suitable day in a "Seine boat." From Portmagee a road goes S. to the summit of a pass (2 m.) across the shoulder of Kilkeaveragh (1222 ft.). Near the top of the pass, and on the R. side of the road, is "Tubbernaspoge," or the "well of the bishop," a clear little rill issuing from the mountain-side and esteemed the holiest well in Kerry. The descent on the far side of the pass, which is steep and bad for cyclists, meets the shore near St Buonia's Well, in the centre of St Finan's Glen. St Buonia is supposed to have been the sister of St Patrick.

Ballinskelligs to Bolus Head and Kildrellig. S.W. of the village of Ballinskelligs is Bolus Head, the termination of the low ridge of hills which shelters the bay of Ballinskelligs on the W., and the highest points of which are Cannig Mountain (1202 ft.) and Bolus (1330 ft.).

Kildrellig. A road leads from Ballinskelligs to an old signal-station on Bolus Head ($3\frac{1}{2}$ m.). An old fort is met with 2 m. from Ballinskelligs along this road, and at Kildrellig also may be seen some old "gallauns," or upright massive stones which may have been used as gravestones in pagan times. Some of these seem here to have been adopted by Christians, and rude in-

cised crosses surrounded by circles are engraved on them.

Cahirciveen over Balloughisheen Pass. A good road leads E. from Cahirciveen past the ruined home of the O'Connells, called Carhan, a mile distant from the town. The view of the bridge and woods at this point is worthy of note. Half-a-mile farther on the road from Balloughisheen inclines to the R. and leads past the Workhouse and the prettily situated house called "Srugreena," to a flat stretch where a good surface makes cycling easy. On the R. hand side on the hill slope over the flat bog is the little chapel of Srugreena, and a glimpse of sea near Valencia adds interest to the somewhat monotonous view. A low pass over the hills opens up a fine extended view of moorland, and after passing Coars Schoolhouse on the L. the road swings to the R. and leads down to the valley of the Inny. Along this road splendid views are obtained of the mountains bounding the southern side of the Inny Valley, in the deep "coums" of which lie the beautiful lakes of Derryana, Cloonaghlin, and Namona.

The main trend of this route is S.E. till Lissatinnig Bridge is reached, when the road meeting the main route from Waterville to Balloughisheen turns N.E. through patches of oak scrub and by flats where osmunda ferns grow luxuriantly to the foot of the pass. This pass of Balloughisheen has been described in Chapter IV. on Waterville district, and little more remains to be said save to impress on strangers the beauty and grandeur of the scene which may be enjoyed from the summit, and which for breadth and fine outline

can find few rivals in Kerry. All the way down the eastern slope the traveller meets with views of extraordinary beauty, and at Bealalaw Bridge he can either make his way direct to Glencar and Caragh and Killarney, or, turning sharp to the R., pursue the road to Kenmare which leads over the Balloughbeama Pass. The journey over this pass to Kenmare is described in Chapter VII., dealing with Caragh and Glencar, and no further reference is necessary here.

Cahirciveen to Waterville. The road between the town of Cahirciveen and Waterville village is the least interesting of any in the attractive S. coast tour, and it is also the least good. Pretty views are obtained for the first portion of the road of the village of Knight's Town in Valencia Island and the harbour of Valencia. A long spur from Bantee (1245 ft.) shoots out on the L., round which the road winds slightly to Othermony Bridge. At this point a road branches off to the right, leading direct to Portmagee, and by a branch road over the hills to the glen of St Finan. At the cross of Kilpeakan (4 m. from Cahirciveen) a road to the R. leads by Dereen Bridge and Emlaghmore Bridge to Ballinskelligs. The main road to Waterville shortly afterwards bends to the L. for $\frac{1}{4}$ m. and then again to the R. in a 5 m. straight line for Waterville, which can be seen in the distance. On the rising ground near Kineigh House a good view is obtained on the L. hand of the valley of the Inny. The peak of Colley Mountain (2238 ft.) is seen far up the glen, and on the R. of Colley is the pass of Balloughisheen. On a clear day Carrantuohill forms the farthest limit of this view. The S.E. side of the Inny

Valley is blocked by the mountains beyond Glencar and the Derryana lakes, Mullaghanbattin, Beoun, Knocknagantee, and Coomcallee. A broad sweep of bog land stretches across the valley. After crossing the Inny Bridge the road ascends a hill to Spunkane Chapel. From here the up-and-down road (2 m.) to Waterville can be avoided by turning to the R. and making the detour which leads by the newly made road nearer the seashore to the village.

CHAPTER VI

VALENCIA ISLAND

THE Irish name of this island, the most western, if we except the Blaskets and Skelligs rocks, of the British group, was Bealinnish, or, as some may say, "Ballyinch"—the town of the island. Gradually and most naturally the name became "Valencia," possibly through the Spanish interference with the Irish tongue. The extreme length of the island is 7 m., and its breadth 2 m.

Approaches. Valencia can be approached direct by the Great Southern and Western railway *viâ* Farranfore Junction and Cahirciveen, described in Chapters V. and VII., to Valencia Harbour, the terminus of that line of rail, and thence by ferry-boat across the harbour ($\frac{1}{2}$ m.) to Knight's Town Pier; or (2) by road from Waterville to Valencia harbour, 10 m. A change could be made in the road route by driving from Waterville to Portmagee (13 m.) and crossing there by ferry $\frac{1}{4}$ m. to the

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island side of the strait. But in adopting this latter route a conveyance should be sent from Knight's Town to Portmagee Ferry, as no cars are available at that place. The chief town or village on Valencia Island is Knight's Town, which is the headquarters of the Anglo-American Cable Company, established there at the first laying of the cable in the year 1865. Another small village called Chapel Town lies midway between Knight's Town and Portmagee Ferry, but it possesses nothing of interest.

Valencia Island is particularly interesting as affording a most favourable locality for the observation of various marine objects of natural history. Its climate is mild, and scientific observers say that there are there no clearly marked periods of either spring or autumn. Season gradually glides into season, and frost and snow are seldom known. The Gulf Stream brings with its warm current various forms of sea-drift and exquisite shells from the tropics and the Sargasso Sea, and the study of marine life in the waters around the shores of this attractive island is of the deepest interest. Valuable scientific investigations made by residents, who have devoted much time to the study of the natural history of Kerry, have been from time to time published by the "Department of Agriculture" for Ireland. These researches should be read by those who are interested in the scientific work, which is making great progress in the county at present. The tide enters Valencia Harbour at both the E. and W. extremity, and these branch tides meet in the water-space midway in the harbour. The main flood tide runs northwards along the coast of Kerry, the chief stream being some 7 m. off

the shores of Valencia. A branch of this main tide flows along the shores of the island, dividing as before stated, and thence passes up the Dingle Bay. The average rainfall at Valencia is 58 in., and the island is within the region of winter rains, the maximum rainfall being in January and the lowest in May.

With its equable climate and its favoured position as regards the Gulf Stream, Valencia in former days, some 150 years ago, was regarded as the "Granary of the County." To-day, though it cannot be regarded in that light, it possesses an attraction hard to imagine, and any slight inconvenience which may be experienced in crossing the strait will be amply repaid by the magnificent views of cliff and sea which may be enjoyed from almost every point of the island.

In 1858 Tennyson visited Valencia, when he saw some of the highest waves and some of the finest cliff scenery in Ireland. As a matter of fact, however, the waves which hit the N. and W. of Valencia are not as big as those on the coast of Mayo. The deep water marked by the 1000-fathom line comes nearer to the shores of Mayo, and the swell is consequently greater.

(1) *Knight's Town to Glanleam and Fogher Cliffs.* Leaving Knight's Town with its well-ordered, comfortable hotel, its substantial houses, and its general air of prosperity and comfort, and passing the little Anglican church on the L., the road runs due N. for $\frac{3}{4}$ m. towards the mouth of the harbour, and then divides into two roads, one leading down the slope towards Glanleam, the other and higher road, called the Coombe Road, skirting the hillside through pretty hanging woods full of

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honeysuckle and "London Pride," and thence leading on to the "slate quarries" and cliffs. A rough path leads from the quarries to Reenadrolaun Point. Fogher Cliff, on the L. hand, towers up some 700 ft. from the sea, which foams white at its base. Here the great rollers from the Atlantic, coming in without a break, hit the opposing headlands with astounding force, and on a stormy day few finer sights than this view from Reenadrolaun can be seen. Eastwards the bluff promontory of Doulus Head guards the northern approach to Valencia Harbour, whilst nearer at hand "Fort Point," where the lighthouse stands over the white breakers, marks the spot where Oliver Cromwell established a fort.

The "Protector" built his forts at both ends of Valencia Island to guard the harbour, and the outlines of the earthworks at "Fort Point" may be seen to this day. In the reign of Queen Anne the place was much frequented by French privateers, as it afforded a very safe refuge. By keeping a good lookout the privateer could escape at one end of the island if the English cruiser appeared at the other—a little plan adopted in later days successfully by the daring smugglers who frequented the coast of Kerry. The celebrated Paul Jones is said to have often put into Valencia Harbour. From the Fogher Cliffs it is a stiff climb to reach the summit of Feaghmaan (880 ft.), whence on a clear day the view is unsurpassed. Away to the N. and N.N.W. lie the "Foze Rocks" and the Blasket Islands, outposts of the Empire. That group of irregular-shaped islands, seeming from this point of view huddled together, consists of Innishvickillane and Innishnabro, with

the peaked-up Tearaght Rock in the centre. Eastwards of these islets lies the Great Basket, and over the strait to the E. of that Dunmore Head, Mount Eagle, and Marhin Peak. The far-away peak over the low ground E. of Mount Eagle is Ballydavid Head, on the northern side of the Dingle peninsula. Still further E. are seen the heights of Brandon Mountain, rising, as it were, from the sea beyond the cliffs of Eske and the mouth of Dingle Harbour. On and on to the E. hill rises on hill till Caherconree is reached, which overlooks the Bay of Tralee on N. side and the Bay of Castlemaine on the S. Then let the eye take in the nearer view, Valencia Harbour, stretching up to Cahirciveen till the narrow silver streak is lost in the brown bogs of the Ferta River valley. This fine view is backed by hills rising gradually to the crinkled points of Carrantuo-hill and the mountains by Glencar and Caragh. Turning to the S. the range of Dunkerron blocks out the view, and here and there, dim beyond that, are the Caha Mountains on the southern shore of Kenmare River. Nearer at hand is the Bay of Ballinskelligs, whilst more to the W. is Portmagee, the point of Puffin Island, and right away out at sea the Skelligs Rocks. The return journey may be made, if permission is obtained, through Glanleam.

(2) *Glanleam*. The home of the "Knights of Kerry" lies snugly in a hollow, surrounded on three sides by wooded slopes, facing the green waters of Valencia Harbour and the attractive island called Beginish. The house presents a modern appearance and possesses no architectural interest. In the hall are to be seen a few of



A MOUNTAIN LOUGH

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Cromwell's cannon shots found at Fort Point. The gardens, however, are well worth visiting, with their wealth of bamboos, tree ferns, eucalyptus, and fuchsias (one of the latter being the largest known). Numbers of rare shrubs and plants of all kinds flourish at Glanleam, the sheltered situation and the mild climate affording special facilities for their growth. Amongst the number of shrubs may be noted the scarlet flowering *Embothrium coccinum*, or coral tree. On the summit of a green hill to the N. of the house stands a beautiful Irish cross, placed there to perpetuate the memory of the late Knight of Kerry—if indeed any memorial was required to keep alive the memory of that chivalrous, gentle "Knight" who still lives in the affections of the people of Kerry. Formerly the "Knight of Kerry's Country" was in and around Dingle. The wars and changes of government through the days of Elizabeth, Charles I., and the succeeding reigns brought varying fortunes to the Geraldines, and, amongst others, was the change from Dingle to Valencia, and now "The Grove" and "Rahinane Castle," the former residences of the "Knights," are almost forgotten.

(3) *Round Valencia Island.* Another expedition may be made from Knight's Town. Drive or bicycle out along the road past Chapel Town towards the ferry for Portmagee, and thence as far as the road will lead towards the W. (6 m.). A walk along the hill-side for a mile brings the traveller to the old Signal Station, a tower built in 1815, at the extreme western point of the island. Recently this old building has been taken over by the naval authorities for the purpose of forming a

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signal station of the approved modern type. This black mass of masonry stands out gaunt against the sky overlooking the sea. Cliffs of beautiful colouring and impressive height are here to be seen, and standing on this windy height one feels well-nigh at the end of the earth, for only the Skelligs rocks lie between these cliffs and the coast of America. Headlands, all foam-lashed, mark the shores to the S., and the air blowing in from the Atlantic is most inspiring. The return journey to Knight's Town may be made by the upper road through the centre of the island, which comes round by the slate quarries and Glanleam.

(4) *Beginish Island and Church Island in Valencia Harbour.* A quarter of an hour by boat brings the traveller to the island called Beginish, situated right in the waterway of Valencia Harbour. Here may be seen some curious basaltic formation of rock similar to that found at the Giant's Causeway, in Antrim. With the exception of the ridge of basalt to be seen in the gorge to the S. of Lough Guitane, near Killarney, this is the only instance of basaltic formation in Kerry. A charming strand and good bathing places are found on Beginish, and if the sea is calm a visit may be made to the caves in the cliffs, which end in Doulus Head, on the main shore, N. of Valencia Harbour. Church Island is a very small island lying S. of Beginish, and is chiefly interesting as possessing an old ruined church and beehive cell, said to have been founded by St Finan, and probably of the same date as the church and cells in the Skelligs Rocks. A curious old grave, with basaltic corner-stones let into the soil, is worth observing.

Valencia to the Skelligs Rocks. Visitors to

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Valencia, Cahirciveen, or Waterville should make a special point of trying to visit the Skelligs Rocks. It is not always an easy thing to achieve, and needless to say calm weather is essential to the enjoyment of an excursion. A strait of 12 m. wide lies between the great "Skellig Michael" and the mainland, and perhaps the best way to approach both the islands is by a ten-oared "Seine" from Portmagee. About two hours is an average passage.

The Great Skellig—or "Skellig Michael"—has been called "the most western of Christ's fortresses in the ancient world," and it has the distinction of being the farthest W. of all the islands in the British group, except the Tearaght Rock. Like Mont St Michel in France and St Michael's Mount in Cornwall, the Great Skellig was formerly the site of a religious foundation dedicated to the archangel St Michael. The well-preserved remains of the cells and chapel of this lonely monastery can be seen to this day, and it is their existence which makes the journey to the Skelligs so interesting. Compared with the splendid buildings on Mont St Michel, these plain, rough stone edifices look poor indeed. But they impress the beholder far more by their very simplicity. Legend has it that Ir, son of Milesius, was buried here; that the ships of Daire harboured here on their way to the great Battle of Ventry; that in 823 one of the monks named Eitgall perished here of hunger and thirst. It is also said that King Olaf Tryggoeson, of Norway, was here baptised. Giraldus Cambrensis mentions the Skellig Michael in the following passage:—

"In the southern part of Munster, in the neigh-

bourhood of Cork, there is an island with a church dedicated to St Michael, famed for its orthodox sanctity from very ancient times. "There is a stone outside the porch of this church on the right hand, and partly fixed in the wall, with a hollow in its surface, which every morning, through the merits of the saint to whom the church is dedicated, is filled with as much wine as will conveniently suffice for the service of the Masses on the day ensuing, according to the number of priests there are who have to celebrate them."

Probably the ancient monastery continued to be inhabited long after the foundation of Ballinskelligs on the mainland, and was resorted to as a place of pilgrimage and penance for many a long year. The landing-place is at a comparatively sheltered spot on the E. side of the island, near the mouth of a great cave, and in rough weather the aid of a "derrick" is required. From the landing-place a good roadway leads up to the lighthouse, $\frac{1}{4}$ m. (built about the year 1854). This lighthouse is 175 ft. over the sea, and has a light of 2500 candle-power. A more powerful modern light will soon replace this old one. Half-way along the roadway a flight of rude steps leads to a grassy miniature valley between two peaks, where sea-pinks and beautiful "rose root" (*Sedum rhodiola*) grow in profusion. This is called "Christ's Saddle," and is 422 ft. above the sea. More steps lead up towards the eastern peak, and then a little flagged pathway leads to the Beehive huts and oratories, which form the monastic buildings of Skellig Michael. It would be impossible to describe the impressions which will be made on all who stand within

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this little enclosure, and sees the cell in perfect repair, as though left only yesterday; the small ruined chapel, with its E. window looking towards the mainland of Ireland; and the graveyard where the sea-pinks and rose root cover the graves, and creep round the rude crosses which mark the resting-places of forgotten saints.

In spring and summer the whole place is alive with birds, which are tame through the protection of years. The pathway and rude stone stairs, which lead to the summit of the Skellig Michael, seem to have formed the "Way of the Cross" for pilgrims in old days, and weather-beaten, worn, upright stones appear to this day to represent the form of crosses standing out against sky and sea, keeping still the memories connected with this once holy isle.

A strange story is sometimes to be heard in the neighbouring mainland of music which is said to issue from the monastery at night time. Many years ago a custom prevailed in Kerry of issuing what was called a "Skelligs List," containing the names of the young men and maidens who had not married at "Shrove Tide." Should a young person not be married by Shrove Tuesday, he or she was said to "go to the Skelligs." The origin of this saying was probably due to the following fact. When the Roman computation of Easter, introduced to the Western Church by St Hilary, found its way to Ireland in the 7th century, Munster at once accepted it. More of the out-of-the-way places, however, adhered for a long time to the old Celtic method of computing the time of the Paschal Feast, and amongst these places the Skellig Michael.

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The Celtic method brought Easter a month later than the newer rule of St Hilary, and hence Lent began earlier on the mainland than on the Skellig Rock. It followed that if a couple had not married on the mainland on Shrove Tuesday they had to "go to the Skelligs" if they wished to be married before Lent began.

The Lesser Skellig has no monastic buildings. It is a bare rock famous as the building-place of the gannet or solan goose (*Sula bassana*). Enormous numbers of these birds have their nests here, and the sight in summer time is marvellous, when a gun fired near the rock fills the air with beautiful white wings. The journey to the Skelligs is perhaps most feasible when an E. wind blows off the land, but from whichever way the wind comes settled weather is essential.

CHAPTER VII

CARAGH LAKE AND GLENCAR

Approaches. This beautiful lake can be approached (1) from Tralee (20 m.) or Killarney (20 m.) by train, going from Farranfore Junction; (2) by train, also going from Cahirciveen (20 m.), should the traveller take the southern route along the coast on first coming to the county; (3) by road from Tralee over the shoulder of the Slieve Mish range, and on by Castlemaine, Milltown, and Killorglin; (4) by road from Killarney by Beaufort; (5) by road from Waterville over the Balloughisheen Pass and Glencar (27 m.); (6) from Kenmare by road

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across the Balloughleama Pass, and down through Glencar (28 m.). The route by railway from Killarney or Tralee *viâ* Farranfore Junction, and thence down the valley of the Maine River, is naturally the quickest and most direct; and as the train stops at Caragh Lake Station, half a mile from the beautifully situated hotel, it is the most convenient way of approach. The other routes have been described elsewhere when dealing with excursions to be made from Kenmare, Killarney, Waterville, and Cahirciveen; and it will therefore be sufficient here to describe the railway approach. The valley of the Maine, which runs W. from Farranfore to the head of Dingle Bay, is bounded on the N. by the Slieve Mish Mountains, the highest points of which, Bautregaum (2796 ft.) and Caherconree (2713 ft.), may be seen on the R. of the train.

On the L. hand side, low hills, wooded in places, run from Cordal in the E. to the Laune River, where they lose themselves in the flats at the base of the high mountains and the wilderness of hills which extends thence to the coast at Cahirciveen and Waterville. Two m. from Farranfore the little station of Molahiffe is passed. On the R. of the line at this point can be seen, about a mile distant, the faint outline of the ruined castle where the first Sir Valentine Browne settled himself in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, after the Desmond rebellion.

The next station, Castlemaine, was formerly an important frontier post between "Kerry" and "Desmond" (the two divisions into which the present county was formerly split); and the castle, built on the bridge over the Maine, was held alter-

nately by the MacCarthy More and the Desmond Geraldines till 1578. In that year the castle, which had been dismantled, was rebuilt, and the Earl of Desmond petitioned to be granted possession again. Lord Burleigh, however, wrote in reply saying: "The Council of England doth not think it convenient, for sundry good considerations, that the said castle be restored to the possession of the Earl or of any subject." The frontier fortress was far too important to be entrusted to the chief of either the Geraldine or MacCarthy More clans, and accordingly a Constable was appointed to hold it for the Queen of England.

The first of a long line of Constables was Andrew Martyn, who, as we read, was killed by a "culverin shotte" at the taking of Fort del Ore in 1580. To him succeeded Thomas Spring, and, later on, Sir Warham St Leger, Sir Charles Wilmot, and Sir Thomas Roper, afterwards Lord Baltinglass. The castle was besieged and taken by the Irish in 1641, and held by Daniel MacCarthy throughout that war. It was probably finally destroyed when Cromwell's soldiers came to the W. But the office of Constable of Castlemaine went on down to the year 1829, though it had for more than a century been a sinecure. The only remains of this fortress still to be seen are the massive piles of the old bridge which spans the tidal waters of the river Maine.

From Castlemaine a good road leads direct to Tralee (10 m.), and a wild old mountain pass winds up the steep slope of the Slieve Mish, to descend through the beautiful Glounskeehy to the same place (7 m.). A road also runs W. by Inch to Auniscaul (16 m.), which, though some-

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what monotonous, by reason of its straightness, affords on a fine day good views of sea and mountains. Two m. to the E. of Inch can be seen on the right the pretty new house belonging to Major John MacGillycuddy, which has the advantage of an unrivalled view. The railway route, after passing Castlemaine (2 m.), leads to Milltown, a sleepy little market-town, where are the remains of an old abbey called Kilcolman. Here is the residence of Sir William Godfrey. This abbey of Kilcolman, formerly called the Priory of Kylla, must not be confounded with the Kilcolman where Spenser dwelt, and dreamed the poem of the "Faery Queen." The home of the poet was in the county of Cork, not far from Buttevant. This Kilcolman Abbey is not very remarkable. It can be seen on the L. hand side of the railway after passing Milltown Station. Kilcolman means the Church of S. Colman. This Abbey or Priory is said to have been founded by Geoffrey de Marisco, who came over with Henry II. in 1172. He also built Castle Island Castle, and founded a community of Knights Hospitallers in the County Limerick, from which fact the place called Hospital takes its name.

Killorglin. Killorglin, the next station, is a small country town pleasantly situated on the banks of the Laune, which here broadens out into a wide estuary. There is nothing very remarkable about this little town. A bit of the old castle, said to have been founded by the Knights Templars, still stands near the W. end of the fine stone bridge which spans the river; and the newly built Roman Catholic church, which is a conspicuous object on the hill, is well worth visiting, the

marble in the interior being of excellent quality. A thriving salmon fishery is carried on from January—when the season opens—till August. But perhaps one of the most notable things connected with Killorglin is the annual fair on 11th August, called and known far and near as “Puck Fair.” The origin of the name is said to be due to the fact that long ago a solitary “puck” or goat was the only animal offered for sale. Great things have sometimes small beginnings, and “Puck” Fair is no exception to this. At the present day hundreds of people attend this fair, and a large “puck” or he-goat, profusely decorated, is placed on a high platform in the centre of the town. Beyond Killorglin a wild bit of land stretches away to the L. of the railway, beyond which rise the Reeks and Carrantuohill in all their beauty of outline. Here and there the bog has been reclaimed at infinite labour to form small holdings in a “Congested District.”

On the right of the railway, across another dreary waste of bog and stony enclosures, the hills of the Dingle peninsula can be seen over a strip of Castlemaine Harbour, and then the woods at the northern end of Caragh Lake meet the view. To the traveller who has never visited this pleasing locality before, it is as though he had entered an oasis in a desert, so different in character does the country appear when once the waters of Caragh Lake meet the eye.

(1) *Caragh.* Half-a-mile from the railway station, which lies in the shade of the Scots firs, stands Caragh Lake Hotel on a rise at the foot of the lake. The well-planted grounds attached to this pleasant house slope to the shore, and a fine



THE WAY OF THE CROSS, SKELLIG MICHAEL

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view is obtained of the lake with its background of lofty hills. The whole expanse of water cannot be seen from this point owing to a bend in the lake, and to enjoy thoroughly the first impression of Caragh an excursion should be made along the E. shores as far as the "Devil's Elbow" (2 m.), where a twisting road leaving the shores enters the fastness of the hills, and after many windings leads to Glencar. It would be hard to describe the scenery of Caragh along this pretty route. But to travel this road on a fine morning in May or June, when the lake is blue between the warm boles of the Scots firs and the little holdings clinging to the tops of the cliffs, or sheltering in the flats which mark the base of some height, are vivid green; when the gorse is a blaze of gold, and the young leaves of the silver birches are quivering in the sunshine, is to lay up a memory which will last a lifetime. The length of Caragh is 4 m. from Lickeen at the head to the hotel at the foot of the lake. Its breadth is 1 m. The main feeder of the lake is the Glencar River, celebrated for its early salmon fishing; the Lower Caragh River runs from the lake to the sea near Dooks, and in former days was also a good salmon river. But of late years something has marred its fame. On the W. side of the lake is Seefin Mountain, 1621 ft. The woods around Caragh are said to have been the hiding-place in days of old for Dermot and Grania when they fled from their enemies across Ireland.

(2) *Dooks* (3 m.). At this place there are good golf links on the sand-hills which extend along the shores of Castlemaine Harbour, the shallow extreme end of the bay of Dingle.

(3) *Round Caragh Lake by Lickeen and the "Windy Gap."* Starting from Caragh Lake Hotel, and turning to the R. on leaving the entrance gate, the high road, which runs by the E. shore of the lake, through the birch and pine plantations which clothe the mountain slopes, should be followed till the open land is reached at the sharp turn called the "Devil's Elbow" ($2\frac{1}{2}$ m.). Looking back from this point the view is exceedingly beautiful. The lake lies beneath, closed in by the hills, and far away to the N. a glint of the sea shows where Dingle Bay lies, and beyond that are the lines of the Dingle Hills. Upwards the road now goes past pretty farmsteads where dogs bark and children's voices calling cattle break the stillness of the mountains.

Then a wild open space of moorland is reached where roads branch R. and L. That to the L. leads to Killorglin (8 m.), and by a circuitous route back to Caragh Hotel. The road to the R., crossing a small mountain stream, leads to Glencar (4 m. distant). The small lough called Cummernamuck, on the L. of the road, down in a hollow, is the reservoir of the town of Killorglin. This road to Glencar, as it rises up the mountain-side, goes by the side of the two loughs of Nakirka and Nambrackdarrig on the R. to a pass in the hills, 348 ft. above the sea. Along this route interesting views are obtained, extending from the points of Carrantuohill to Killarney and the faint grey hills of East Kerry and Cork.

From the vicinity of Lough Nambrackdarrig, which lies amidst brown moorland, a strange wild view of mountain tops and distant sea can be obtained. From the head of the pass the road



WEATHER-WORN CROSS, SKELLIG MICHAEL

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winds down to the wooded valley of Glencar. One mile from the summit of this pass the road branches again, the L. hand branch leading to Glencar Hotel, the Balloughisheen Pass, Balloughleama Pass, or Killarney, and that to the R. going direct through beautiful birch and Scots fir woods to the Bridge of Lickeen, or, as it is called, Blackstones Bridge.

It is worth while to stop at this point, where the Glencar River rushes white with foam through the dark, warm-coloured rocks, and, if time permits, to wander a short distance up the banks of the river to enjoy the unrivalled combination of wood and water and mountain scenery. A few yards beyond the bridge on the R. stands Lickeen House, on the flat land which borders the long inlet from Caragh Lake. After passing Lickeen House the road partakes more of the character of a bridle-path winding and rising and falling through a tangle of birch and holly trees and mossy boulders covered with ferns. It is an attractive journey, particularly in spring-time, when the violets and primroses are in flower and the woods are full of the songs of birds. After about half-a-mile the woods begin to get thin, and as the "Slieve" opens out the road begins to rise steeper and steeper up the mountain side to the "Windy Gap." There is no missing this track, as it can be seen winding clearly up the side of the mountain. But it taxes the energies to push a bicycle up the rough incline, even though ample reward is obtained by the view from the summit. Standing in the "Windy Gap," 1098 ft. above the sea, and looking back across the Vale of Glencar, there is a fine view of the W. side of Carrantuohill and all the mountains

which form the southern boundary of this lovely district.

Turning N., the upper end of the Bay of Dingle lies beneath with the golden sandhills of Inch and Glenbeigh fringing the blue water. Thick heather clothes the northern slopes of the hill and makes a good foreground to the picture. The road on the Rossbeigh side of the "Windy Gap" has many unexpected and awkward turns and dips, and a traveller should not be tempted at any part to ride his bicycle down the incline. At the foot of the pass on the N. side stands the little new Catholic church of Rossbeigh, and near it the rather curious edifice of Rossbeigh Castle, belonging to Mr Rowland Wynn. Its small windows and quaint attempt at imposing fortifications are a type of architecture quite out of keeping with the age and county in which it has been built. At the village of Rossbeigh a turn to the L. across the bridge leads to the Lodges by the seashore, where excellent bathing and sea air can be enjoyed. The river flowing through this valley is the Behy, which rises in the deep "coums" far up in the chain of mountains to the S.W.

The journey back (turning to the R. in the village of Rossbeigh) to Caragh Lake Hotel (4 m.), presents little of interest. Leaving the Glenbeigh Hotel on the L., the road leads to the bridge over the Caragh River. The branch road to the L. on the E. side of the bridge will lead to Dooks and the golf links, that on the R. direct to Killorglin and the Caragh Lake Hotel. The whole distance covered by this journey, which has been described, is about 15 m.



RUINED CHAPEL, SKELLIG MICHAEL

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(4) *Glencar, over Balloughbeama Pass, to Kenmare or Parknasilla.* This delightful excursion cannot be too favourably recommended. It forms one of the easiest and most attractive excursions in the county. Two miles S. from Glencar Hotel is the Bealalaw Bridge over the Upper Caragh River, and the road from Balloughbeama Pass lies on the proper R. of the stream from this point, or the L. hand side as the traveller looks up the river towards the hills. A good road leads through the valley for 2 m., where a branch occurs. The road to the L. at this point leads into the mountains, and ends in a rough mountain track, which climbs the dividing ridge between the "Reeks" and the hill, which rises 2440 ft., in shape like a sugar-loaf, and which is called Broaghnbinnia, eventually joining the road which leads through the Black Valley (Coumduv) to Geerameen, that to the R. still leading onwards to the Pass of Balloughbeama. In front is the high peak of Mahanahattin (2539 ft.), "The Pass of the Furze," and Beoun Mountain (2468 ft.), at the base of which, though hidden from view by intervening moorland, lie the loughs of Cloon and Reagh.

On the L. the "Reeks" are seen, and Knock-abreeda (1811 ft.), which divides Coumduv or the Black Valley from the Owenreagh Glen. The Owenroe, an affluent of the Upper Caragh River, takes its rise in Cloon Lough, and should time permit a diversion might be made to the lake shores by the old road, which runs by the river side, and a note should be made of the fort called Mulla-ghallin, which can be seen plainly from the main road to Balloughbeama Pass. The road towards

the summit of the pass is so well hidden that it is puzzling to tell where it runs in places. Here a fold in the ground makes the further progress appear impossible, and there a dip in an underfeature blots out the traces of the track. But as the traveller proceeds along this excellent road the way opens out in the most interesting manner and reveals bit by bit the beauties of the pass.

The scenery is not so wild as that of the Gap of Dunloe, but it has its special charm of solitude, and the bleating of sheep hidden away on the steep mountain slopes increases the feeling of loneliness. The S. side of the pass is of a less wild description. A view of Loch Brin, with a small bit of plantation, brings a feeling that one is again within reach of civilisation, and as the road descends gradually by the Blackwater River the views increase in breadth if not in beauty. Far away the woods near Dromore and Blackwater Bridge mark the shores of Kenmare River, and the blue ridge beyond is on the far side of that river. Four m. from the head of the pass a bridge crosses the Blackwater, and a mile farther on the main road between Killarney and Sneem is met. Here a sharp turn to the R., past a blacksmith's forge and over a bridge, must be made, and immediately on crossing the bridge another sharp turn to the L. leads by the R. bank of the Blackwater River to the beautiful old bridge (2 m.), shaded by trees, and up to which the tide flows, and which is known far and near as "Blackwater Bridge." This is a beautiful spot to rest for a time.

The main road to Sneem from Kenmare crosses this bridge, and the woods around Dromore Castle

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afford delightful shade for 3 m. along the road to Kenmare. At Blackwater Bridge there is a small house on the W. side of the river and a school a short distance away. On the E. side of the bridge a road leads south for half-a-mile to the Coastguard Station, which can be seen perched up on the hillside on the L. hand side. From this point the road trends E. to Kenmare. Another road, leading N. from Blackwater Bridge, will take the traveller back by the E. side of the river and the main road between Killarney and Sneem. A bye-road, or "bohereen," leads from Blackwater Bridge ($\frac{1}{2}$ m.) to a pretty cottage on the E. bank of the river, where tea may be obtained.

Excursion from Caragh to Coumduv, or the "Black Valley." The excursion here described can be made with ease from Caragh in summer time; but fine weather is an essential. The best way to undertake the expedition is to drive from Caragh to Shanacashel Cross ($5\frac{1}{2}$ m.), and thence past the Glencar Hotel to Bealalaw Bridge (8 m. from Caragh). The road from Bealalaw Bridge rounds the edge of Beenbane Hill, an offshoot of the great Carran-tuohill, and thence, having Beendarrig (the highest point of which is 1482 ft.) on the L. hand side, goes on due E. up the Brida valley for 5 m., till it ends in a small collection of cottages at the foot of the ridge connecting Broughnabinnia (2440 ft.), an isolated sugar-loaf shaped hill, on the R., and Curraghmore (2695 ft.), a spur of Carran-tuohill, on the L. This ridge divides the Brida valley from Coumduv, or the Black Valley, and only a very ill-defined footway marks the track across. Two m. of this rocky, intricate footpath,

trodden by few, leads down to some houses near a stream issuing from a dark lake high up in the folds of Curraghmore, the Reeks, and Carrantuohill, and called Curraghmore Lake. A road is now met again, which for the first mile leads E., with Brassel Mountain (1888 ft.) in front of the traveller. Then it turns S. and goes down through a wooded bit of glen, where magnificent views are obtained, to a bridge (1 m.) crossing the upper part of the Cummeenduff River, issuing from Lough Reagh. At the far end of Lough Reagh a fine waterfall will be observed. From this bridge the road leads for $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. along the S. shores of Lough Cummeenduff and Esknacrutia, crossing the river again below the eastern lake. Should the weather be stormy, and rain have recently fallen, the grandeur of the scenery at this point will be enhanced by the white water coming down the northern mountains from Lough Callee.

This fine walk gives splendid views up the mountains at every turn, and each mile brings additional interests. A spur called Feabrahy (1894 ft.) runs out S. from the "Sierra" ridge of the Reeks, the highest points of which are one just behind Brassel Mountain (3141 ft.), and one a little farther to the E., 3062 ft. in height. The road, after crossing the river, runs at the base of the Reeks on the N. side of the Coumduv (Black Valley) to a cross. Here the road to the R. leads down to Geerameen and the Upper Lake, which may be seen in the distance, and the road to the L. leads through the Gap of Dunloe back to Caragh. In making this expedition from Caragh care should be taken to have carriages or cars sent to the entrance of the Gap—to "French's Cottage"

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—from which place a drive of 13 m. must be undertaken back to Caragh. The expedition is a long one, and entails a good deal of planning. The fatigue, however, may be lessened by having ponies sent to the head of the Black Valley and so avoiding the walk to the Gap of Dunloe. Should tourists wish to remain out for the night they could send their luggage to Killarney, and having made arrangements for boats to meet them at Geerameen, could come down through the chain of lakes.

In conclusion, it may be mentioned that it is quite practicable to carry out this excursion from Killarney by using train, cars, ponies, and boats, and perhaps that is the most fascinating expedition of all. But whichever route a traveller takes, the Black Valley journey can be most strongly recommended.

CHAPTER VIII

TRALEE

Approaches. (1) Tralee can be approached by the Great Southern and Western Railway from Dublin, *viâ* Mallow and Killarney, or (2) by the same line of railway from Dublin, *viâ* Limerick and Listowel. The busy thriving town with some 10,000 inhabitants, which has risen to importance in comparatively recent times, shows few signs of antiquity. "Castle Street" and "Mary Street" and "Abbey Street" come like echoes from the past to remind us that here in the centre of the present

town was one of the chief strongholds of the great Earl of Desmond, and near those narrow streets where children wrangle once stood a fair abbey of White Friars, dedicated to St Mary the Virgin. But though to the outward eye there is little or nothing to bring back the past, there is a gallant history attached to the town of Tralee. It was near this town that St Brandon was born in 484, of the race of Ciar; here, in the 13th century, John of Callan, the Geraldine chief, founded the Dominican monastery. To this church, in 1261, after the fatal Battle of Callan, the Geraldines bore the body of their chief and buried him in the consecrated ground. Maurice FitzGerald, the eldest son of "John of Callan," who had married a daughter of Geoffrey de Marisco, at one time Lord Deputy, was also slain in the same battle and buried with his father in the Abbey Church of Tralee.

In 1296, Thomas FitzGerald, the ancestor of a long line of Desmond chiefs, was buried in this abbey. The present "Square" is supposed to be the site of the cloisters of the ancient monastic building which seems with fluctuating fortune to have existed down to the reign of James II. It gave its martyrs to the Church, and amongst the number was the prior, who in 1653 refused to leave Ireland, and was condemned to the scaffold. He met his death "right manfully" in Killarney, saying with his last breath, "Into Thy hands, Lord, I commit my spirit."

Another worthy brother of the Order of St Dominic in Tralee was Dominick O'Daly, who in 1655, under the name of Dominic a' Rosario, was rector of Campo Santo College in Portugal, and established "Le Convent de Bon Succès" for Irish



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Dominican nuns in Lisbon. He died in 1663. The Dominicans at the present time have a beautiful church and monastery in Tralee, in Day Place, scarcely a stone's-throw from the site of the old abbey founded in the 13th century by John of Callan.

With regard to the secular history of Tralee it has been before said that the old castle, which stood near the site of the houses on the N. side of Denny Street, was once on a time the chief stronghold of the Geraldines. After the Battle of Callan in 1261, the legends have it that the infant heir of Maurice slain in that battle was seized by an ape and poised over the battlements of the castle, and that the ape afterwards conveyed the child to a place of safety and spared its life, to become the founder of the Desmond line. From the incident, the crest, a monkey and motto, Crom-a-boo, is said to have had its origin. "Crom-a-boo" became the war-cry of the Desmonds.

"And foemen fled when Crom-a-boo
Proclaimed their lance in rest."

In deference to legend again it may be stated that Tralee and not Drogheda is said to have been the place where Thomas, 8th Earl of Desmond, was beheaded, and where his retainers the De Veres renounced their Norman name and adopted that of M'Swiney instead, "through hatred and revenge." It was to Tralee in 1579 that Sir William Drury came to make the writ of "good Queen Bess" run in the palatinate of the Earl of Desmond—that great but unfortunate Earl of Desmond whom Sir Henry Sidney described as "a man void of judgment to govern or will to be ruled." Sir William

Drury misunderstood the rude welcome of the wild kernes, and Eleanor of Desmond, the sadly tried wife of the wilful Gerald, besought pardon for the mistake her husband had made in assembling his followers, and gave her son as a hostage for future fidelity.

Then after the Desmond wars were over, Tralee ceased to be the stronghold of the Geraldines, and in 1586-87 was delivered to Mr Denny and became the Tralee of the Dennys for many a long year. This Mr Denny was afterwards Sir Edward Denny, knight banneret, a second son of Sir Anthony Denny, one of the executors of the will of Henry VIII. He seems to have come to Ireland as a young soldier of fortune with others, like Sir Walter Raleigh and Edmund Spenser, to take a part in the Desmond wars. But his first experience of Ireland does not seem to have impressed him favourably, if we may judge by the following letter from him to Sir Francis Walsingham, which bears date 8th September 1580:—

“I find already my Ireland journey will rather destroy me quite than amend me in anything, and for this kind of service is so groundless, so devoid of reputation in respect of the service never seen; but it still happens in bogs, glens, and woods as in my opinion it might better fit mastiffs than brave gentlemen that desire to win honour. So that I conceive neither good-will at home, commodity here, nor reputation be gotten. “Were it not for the love I bear Lord Grey, all things considered, as myself hath well scanned and determinately set down, I see no good cause as I would rather live in misery and bondage elsewhere than command and live free here.”

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But things did not turn out so badly with "Ned Denny," as he was called in the despatches, in which he was honourably mentioned; and having been dubbed a knight on the field of battle, and done his duty to his sovereign, he, "by God's favour, Queen Elizabeth's bounty, and his own valour, achieved a fair estate in the county of Kerry in Ireland." When he died and was buried at Waltham Abbey, in Essex, some one wrote this epitaph over his tomb—

"A Courtier of the Chamber,
A Soldier in the field,
Whose tongue could never flatter,
And whose heart could never yield."

And no bad epitaph either !

One of the most gallant pages in the history of Tralee is that which records the defence of the castle in 1641. It was a sore time for the English settlers, for the confederate army was strong, and had taken Castlemaine with ease. Many of the gentry joined the army of the Lord President of Munster (St Leger), whilst others, like Colonel David Crosbie, fortified tenable places and held on, hoping for relief sooner or later. I will tell, as shortly as I can, the story of this siege.

In 1641 there were two castles of importance in and near Tralee. The larger, situated in the town, belonged to Sir Edward Denny. The other, called the "Short Castle," belonged to a family named Rice. When the war broke out the "Short Castle" was taken possession of by the English settlers, and about 105 people crowded to its shelter. In the large castle of

the Dennys there were some 170 people, men, women, and children. Arms were collected, and all preparations made for a long struggle. But there was a scarcity of ammunition, owing to the proclamation by the Lord Deputy Strafford, which had prohibited the keeping of arms or gunpowder by any person except of the greatest quality, etc. However, the defenders of the castles were not cast down, and when Sir Edward Denny was ordered by the President of Munster to join him, the command of his castle of Tralee was left in the capable hands of Sir Thomas Harris, and associated with him as governor was the provost of the town. Fierce fighting commenced in 1642, and various attempts were made to take the castles. But they were gallantly defended by the English settlers, and as gallantly assaulted by the opposing force. Then the attacking party cut off the water-supply, and the garrisons were compelled to drink black and foetid water, with the result that scurvy and fever broke out. Sallies were frequently made, and in one of them the English captured three prisoners. Of these they hanged two, but the third, Thomas Roe, a piper, was saved and kept to play to the English garrison.

On the other hand, the confederate Irish, when they entered the town, hanged the keeper of the gaol, and committed other acts which at that time were not looked on as out of the ordinary usages of war. Before hanging the gaol-keeper, the captors made him show where he kept his money, made him drunk with his own beer, and then lashed him to make him dance, and when he fell down they dragged him to execution. It was no wonder after this that Mr White, who was cut off when

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going to visit his house at Loghercannon, thought it better to fly to Ardfert than run the risk of falling into the hands of the enemy. The MS. which relates all this says that the tenantry of Sir Edward Denny, to the number of 400, were plundered, and fled for safety to the castle, and the garrison "grumbled" greatly at the addition to their number. There was treachery to contend against, and hunger and thirst and disease, and yet all attempts to induce Sir Thomas Harris to surrender proved futile. He had been entrusted with the defence of the castle by Sir Edward Denny, and "he would not surrender it to any rebel." And so for six months the siege of Tralee was carried on with vigour, and the defence maintained with great determination. But at last the defenders, being destitute of provisions and ammunition, were obliged to give up their arms on being granted quarter and "a suit of clothes to each person." Sir Thomas Harris was spared the humiliation of a surrender. Worn out by sickness and hardship, and the cares of his command, he died just before the capitulation. During the siege this hero wrote several times to Lord Kerry, asking for aid, and offering to cut his way out to join forces at Ardfert to give battle to the confederates. But Lord Kerry apparently deemed discretion the better part of valour, and leaving Harris and the Tralee garrison to their fate, fled to England for safety. Such is the short record of the siege of the old castles of Tralee.

In 1826, the Sir Edward Denny of the day finally demolished the building to make way for the improvement of the town. Ballybeggan Castle held out till 1643, when it was relieved by

Captain Bridges, who was sent by Lord Inchiquin to Tralee. By this time most of the Irish confederates had joined Lord Muskerry, and the way was being prepared for the peace which Lord Ormonde eventually made with the confederate Catholics, and which turned them from enemies of the king into devoted Royalists and enemies of Cromwell and the Parliament. In the Revolution of 1688 Kerry sided with the unfortunate James II. But it was not till 1691 that Levison, with his dragoons, entered the northern part of the county, and the Irish adherents of the king *de jure* burnt Tralee. Then Ginkel, the famous general of William of Orange, sent a detachment of the Prince of Denmark's regiment in support of Levison, and Captains Navarre and O'Loughnane, who had ordered the burning of Tralee, went very near being hanged. Colonel Denny, however, interceded for them, and their lives were saved.

Tralee owes its present importance as a commercial town partly to its position as the centre of a large agricultural district, and partly to the vigour and enterprise of its people. Every day is a sort of market-day, and the merchants and shopkeepers of Tralee are amongst the most energetic in the S. of Ireland. As a centre for tourist traffic it has not the advantages of Killarney, but there are many things in and around it to interest the passing traveller on his way to the wild district of Dingle. The fine modern Parish Church, with a graceful spire, stands almost in the centre of the town, and the Dominican Church, in Day Place, built of warm red sandstone, are well worth a visit. The school of the Christian Brothers, the con-

vent, knitting factory, and Technical School, the Protestant Episcopal church and school, are all interesting places to visit in this western town. And there are some charming expeditions to be made from Tralee into the surrounding country.

(1) *Tralee to Fenit.* A drive from Tralee to Fenit leads past the little hamlet of Spa (5 m.), along the eastern shore of the bay, and gives a very fine view of the Slieve Mish Mountains over the water. The deep glen of Derrymore, between the heights of Bautregaum and Caherconree, with the white line of water issuing from its depths, will bring to mind the legend of Curoi, of Daire, and Blanaid, which has been related at length in the portion of this Guide dealing with the barony of Corkaguiny (Chapter IX.). Seven m. by road brings the traveller to Fenit, a quiet little seaport and fishing village, specially remarkable for the lovely view which may be enjoyed on a fine day, and for its bracing air. From this point the whole range of mountains from Slieve Mish to the point of Brandon are seen, each peak being distinct and easy to recognise.

It would be hard to find a more perfect panorama of mountains than which is seen from Fenit. The low-lying sandbank, which goes by the name of the Magharees, runs out seawards from the cultivated lowlands at the base of the mountains, and divides Brandon Bay from the bay of Tralee. The great rock which stands out midway between Kerry Head and the Magharees is called "Mucklagh More." On this rock the lesser black-backed gulls breed in large numbers. Mucklaghbeg is the flat sea-swept reef nearer the mainland of Fenit. On this flat rock the turnstone is seen in the spring.

Near the mouth of the harbour is the Samphire Lighthouse. It is only a local guide to the harbour of Fenit and to the channel leading up to Tralee. A substantial pier and breakwater connects the mainland with an outlying island, and the water in the basin, where the freighted ships lie, is kept to a suitable depth by dredging. Fenit, having direct railway communication with Tralee, and so with Dublin, Cork, and Limerick, should be an important port in the future, when, as is hoped, wealth and trade and general prosperity come to Ireland. At Barrow (2 m.), E. of Fenit, are the excellent oyster beds of the Messrs M'Cowan, and there also are to be seen the ruins of Barrow Castle, one of the numerous strongholds which tell the tale of Ireland so eloquently. This particular castle was built to guard the narrow entrance to Barrow Harbour, a shallow haven which only ships of light draught can enter.

Fenit to Ardfert. A pleasant drive of 4 m. through a happy, prosperous-looking land leads past the desolate ruins of Rahinane Castle, where a certain Bishop Fuller took up his abode in the exciting days of 1641. When Lord Kerry fled to England, and Tralee was sore beset by the confederate forces, the O'Kellys, O'Dorans, and O'Lawlers swooped down from the country around Causeway, where they had been deported in previous years, and sacked and burnt the Cathedral of Ardfert and Rahinane.

(2) *Ardfert Abbey and Cathedral.* Five miles from Tralee, by road or rail, which run parallel to each other, lies the village of Ardfert, in the centre of a rich agricultural country of limestone formation. The land has been im-

proved from year to year till it has become perhaps as good as any land in the county. The centre of interest in this place is the old ruined cathedral dedicated to St Brandon. The sainted founder of the original edifice had his first education under Bishop Ert, and afterwards studied under St Jarlath of Tuam. Ardferth is said to mean the high place of "Ert," or by some the high place where miracles are performed. Dr Joyce derives it for Ard-ferta, meaning the height of the grave. The earliest history of the cathedral is somewhat clouded by legend and mystery; but in the annals of Innisfallen some names of the bishops are mentioned who reigned in the see of Ardferth, or, as it was called, the see of Kerry, prior to the Norman invasion. One of these bishops of Kerry, MacRonan, assisted at the Synod of Kells, which was held by the Pope's legate, Cardinal John Paparo, in the year 1152. The first Englishman who filled the see was a Benedictine monk named John, who was consecrated in 1215.

In 1252 Christian, a Dominican friar, was elected bishop, and confirmed in his title by King Henry III., and in 1288 Nicholas, a Cistercian monk from the abbey of O'Dorney, was consecrated bishop, and so down through the succeeding centuries we read of bishop and bishop in continuous succession, some bearing the names of families extant in Kerry at the present day—Stacks, Fitz-Maurices, FitzGerald, Crosbies, Leslies. The cathedral consists of a nave and choir, and is 26 yards in length and about 10 yards wide. The E. end is lighted by three lancet-shaped windows of what is called the Early English style of architecture. The interior contains many gravestones, one

of which, a recumbent form of a bishop, is said to cover the grave of Bishop Stack, who died in 1488. On the S. side there is an arcade of four Gothic arches, which make an aisle. Possibly there was formerly a similar aisle on the N. side also. The S. transept is now the burying-place of the family of Crosbie of Ardfert Abbey. Smith, in his "History of Kerry," mentions a tomb, round the edge of which ran this inscription:—"This monument was erected and chapel re-edified in the year 1688 by the Right Honourable Honora Lady-Dowager of Kerry, for herself, her children, and their posterity, only according to her agreement with the Dean and Chapter." The two detached chapels towards the W. end of the cathedral are supposed to have belonged to the dignitaries of the Church. Dr Smith mentions a round tower as having been in existence at his day opposite the W. end of the church, but of this there are now no remains extant.

Ardfert Abbey. This Franciscan abbey, founded by Thomas FitzMaurice, first Lord Kerry, in 1253, and reformed for Observants in 1518, stands in the park belonging to Mr Talbot Crosbie. It is a beautiful old building—some say as beautiful as Muckross—and the five-light Early English window in the chancel is quite perfect. The architecture is Early English, and older than the Muckross Abbey, which was founded in 1480.

(3) *Ardfert to Ballyheige.* Leaving Ardfert and continuing the northern road through the flat land, bounded on the L. hand by the low sand-hills which fringe the shores of Tralee Bay from Fenit to Ballyheige, a wide-open country of almost unbroken flatness extends on the R. to the base of

the Stacks and Glanaruddery Mountains, and the faint blue hills to the N.E., which mark the boundary of the County Limerick. This country is attractive in summer time, when creamy meadow-sweet and loosestrife wave in the fields, and the land looks purple-and-gold in the sunshine. But in winter it is dreary enough, when the wind drives the rain in sheets over land and sea. But the road leads to Ballyheige (7 m.) at last, and if fortunate enough to see the view with the sunlight on the far distant mountains over an opal sea fringing the sands with white foam, the visitor will be amply rewarded for a somewhat monotonous journey.

Ballyheige Castle, the home of Mr James Crosbie, stands boldly out on a height overlooking the sea, and backed by wind-swept woods, beautiful in spring-time, with a profusion of blue hyacinths. In the gardens of this attractive place the figs ripen in the open, and the fig trees are amongst the largest in Kerry. It was here that the celebrated and much discussed silver robbery took place in the year 1730. Mr Froude told the story in his "Short Studies on Great Subjects" and his "English in Ireland." But the openly expressed views of Mr Froude gave a good deal of offence to Kerry people, and his narration was said to be highly coloured. To get matters in some way right, Miss Mary Agnes Hickson, in the second series of "Old Kerry Records," went to infinite pains to give all the circumstances connected with this robbery, together with the depositions taken in the case. Those interested in the matter cannot do better than read the account given in this book.

It would be too long a story to tell in the pages of this little Guide, and a bare outline of the occurrence is all that can be given. A Danish East Indiaman, called the *Golden Lyon*, laden with twelve chests of silver bullion and coin, on a voyage from Copenhagen to Tranquebar, was driven out of her course by stress of weather, and on 28th October 1730 was run ashore by her captain on the N. side of Ballyheige Bay. John Heitman, her captain, communicated with his authorities in Copenhagen, and pending their instructions stored his chests of bullion, which had been saved through the exertions of Mr Thomas Crosbie and his dependants, in the cellar of a tower in Ballyheige Castle. A guard of Danish sailors watched over the treasure, and the officers and all the shipwrecked crew received every kindness and hospitality from Thomas Crosbie and Lady Margaret Crosbie, his wife. For eight months, apparently, viz., from October to June, the treasure was unmolested, and the captain and crew well treated. But apparently the temptation of the silver had led to a great conspiracy being formed amongst the people of the surrounding country, and on the night of 21st June 1731 a party of over two hundred men, with blackened faces and armed, attacked the tower. Two or three of the Danes were killed and the treasure was stolen. The puzzle as to where it was taken and who was to blame went on through many weary months. Some of the treasure was subsequently recovered, but there does not appear to have been any satisfactory punishment of the guilty parties of this raid.

(4) *Ballyheige to Ballingarry and Kerry*

TRALEE

Head. To the N. of Ballyheige Castle, and distant about 4 m., are the remains of Ballingarry, where Colonel David Crosbie made his brave stand in 1641. Driven out of Gortnaskehy, a house which stood somewhere near the present Ardfert Abbey, he retired to Ballingarry, being supplied with provisions by Lord Inchiquin from the opposite coast of Clare. He fortified the little promontory and built houses for the Protestant refugees, and made covered ways to the fortress from the drawbridge. In 1644 the confederate Catholic army for Kerry gave him an assurance that he should enjoy and possess all "his lands, rents, and other possessions" which he held at the time of the cessation of arms, agreed on in 1643 between the Marquis of Ormonde and the confederates. But, alas! for treachery. In a few months after the signing of this agreement Colonel Crosbie's lands were plundered, Gortnaskehy given to the flames and destroyed, and the siege of Ballingarry resumed with vigour. It was taken by the confederates only when one James Kelly treacherously let down the drawbridge and admitted the foe. Colonel Crosbie's life was spared through the devotion of his niece, Katharine Macgillicuddy of the Reeks. This young lady was a refugee in Ballingarry, but her brother, Colonel Macgillicuddy, and one of her cousins, were serving with the confederate army near Tralee. It was through the intervention of these gentlemen that Colonel Crosbie was spared. He lived for some years after his exciting adventures, and was made Governor of Kerry by Lord Inchiquin. Subsequently his estates were restored to him by Oliver Cromwell, and in 1658 he died full of years and honours, and was buried at Ardfert.

(5) *Tralee to Abbeydorney, Rattoo, and Lixnaw.* Passing out of Tralee by Rock Street and the railway crossing near the factory, the road leads past the back of Oak Park and gradually rises to the schoolhouse of Listellick (2 m.). The view looking back over the town of Tralee to the mountains is especially noteworthy, and gives a very good general idea of this part of Kerry. Continuing along the road, the flat land of North Kerry lies in front, studded with white farmhouses, and rising in the distance to the inconsiderable heights of Ballyheige and Knockanure Hills. Five miles distant from Tralee by this somewhat rough road the traveller comes to the little village of Abbeydorney, or, as it is sometimes called, O'Dorney.

There is nothing remarkable about this little hamlet, which consists of a police barrack, a post office, a chapel, and a few houses, with a railway station on the direct line of rail between Tralee and Listowel. Just beyond the railway station on the R. of the road stands the ruined old abbey of O'Dorney, once an important religious house. The old name of this abbey was "Kyrie Eleison," and it was built for Cistercian monks by some forgotten founder in the year 1154, and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The abbots of Kyrie Eleison were lords of Parliament, and the abbey was a rich one. Thomas FitzMaurice, a Bernardine monk, and fifth son of Maurice, second Lord of Kerry, was at one time abbot of this place. He died in 1303. In this now neglected and ruined spot Christian O'Conarchy, legate of the Pope, Bishop of Lismore, and Superior of all the Cistercians in Ireland, was buried in 1186. When King

Henry VIII. played havoc with the abbey lands throughout the kingdom he created Edmund, 11th Lord Kerry, Baron O'Dorney, and granted to him the abbey of Kyrie Eleison and all the "appurtenances" thereof, together with several other religious houses, to be held by him and his issue male, with the proviso that they should revert to the Crown on the failure of heirs to succeed to the grant.

(6) *Rattoo Round Tower and Abbey.* From O'Dorney the road leads fairly straight towards Ballyduff village (8 m.), past the tall round tower seen on the hill slope to the R. This is Rattoo. The tower is the most perfect specimen of a round tower to be found, and is well worth inspecting.

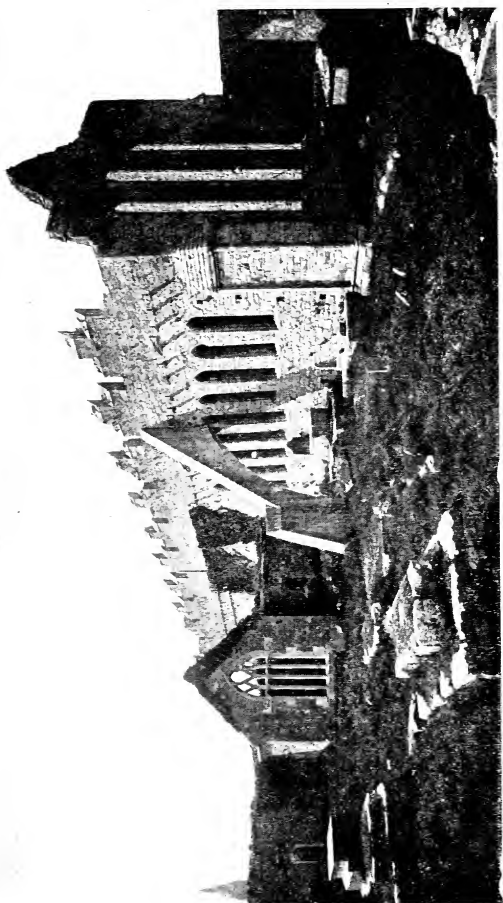
These round towers of Ireland have been the subject of much discussion as to their origin and purpose. It has, however, now been established that they were built about the 8th and 9th centuries as bell towers for the churches which are almost invariably found near to them. The massive masonry, and the doorways high up in the buildings, point to their having been used as places of refuge, and as safe places for the sacred vessels of the church in times of disturbance. Similar towers are found in some parts of the Continent, notably in France and Italy. The time of Charlemagne is fixed upon as the period when these ecclesiastical towers were built abroad, and at that time the Celtic Church in Ireland was in constant communication with the continent of Europe. A small abbey, formerly held by the Canons Regular of St Austin, stands within the precincts of the park at Rattoo. Originally this little building was a preceptory belonging to the Knights Hospitallers

of St John of Jerusalem, and was founded by a certain Friar William during the reign of King John. The Austin Canons got possession of it later, and dedicated it to St Peter and St Paul. In November 1600 the Irish burnt the abbey on the approach of Sir Charles Wilmot's forces.

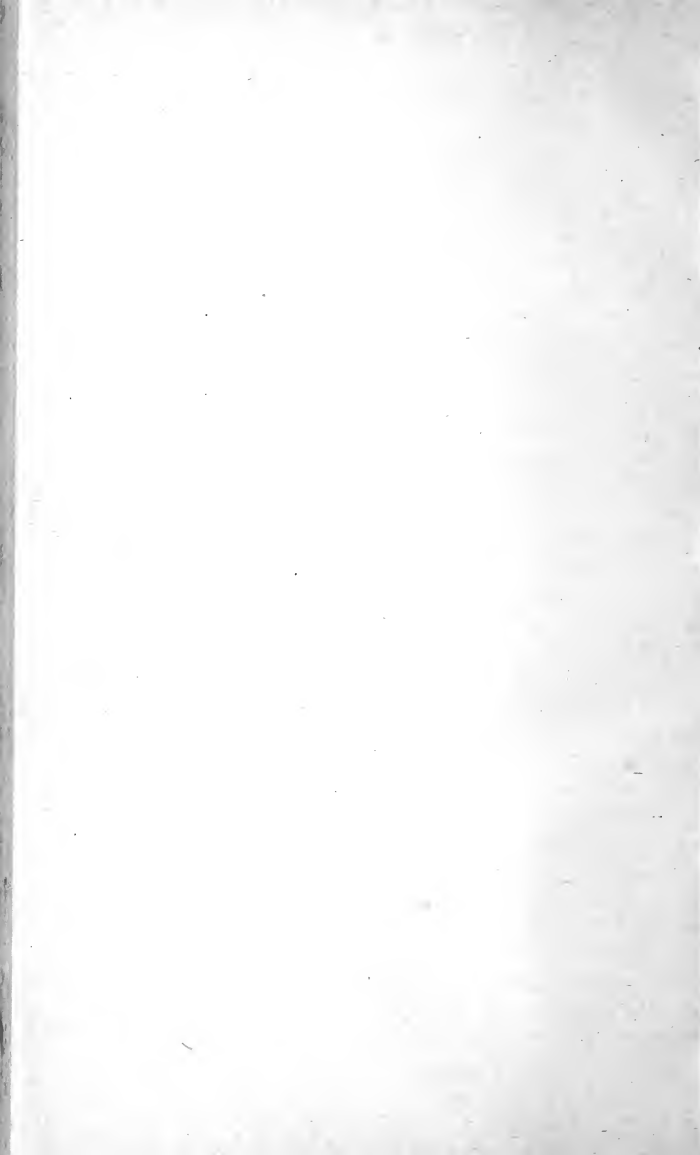
(7) *Lixnaw*. S.E. from Rattoo, across flat, marshy land where dykes are cut to carry off the surplus water, lies the village of Lixnaw (3 m.), once, many years ago, the country of the Luceni, a section of the Milesian horde which overran Ireland. From these Luceni, Lixnaw takes its name. The landmark for the whole countryside is the curious domed building standing on a slight eminence not far from the railway station. This building marks the last resting-place of the Earls of Kerry, the centre of whose vast territory was this forsaken village. The whole barony of Clan Maurice formerly belonged to this family of Fitz-Maurice. They were barons of Kerry and Lixnaw by tenure, and afterwards confirmed by patent in the reign of King Richard II.

Lixnaw was not always the unimportant place it is at the present day. Formerly a strong castle stood where the grass now waves, and down to the end of the 18th century the house at Lixnaw was a favoured abode. Dr Smith in his "History," published in 1774, speaking of Lixnaw, says—

"This seat stands agreeably on the river Brick, which is here cut into several pleasant canals that adorn its plantations and gardens. The tide flows up to the gardens, whereby boats of a considerable burden may bring up goods to the bridge near the house; here are two stone bridges over the Brick, the oldest of which was built by



ARDFERT CATHEDRAL



Nicholas, the third baron of Lixnaw, who was the first person that made causeways to this place, the land being naturally wet and marshy. The present house consists of a large building with wings on each side, and several offices, that enclose a handsome area ; in one of these wings is a chapel, the walls of which are painted in fresco by a foreigner called John Souillard, being copies of the celebrated cartons (*sic*) of Raphael at Hampton Court, particularly the lame man healed by Peter and John, Elymas the Sorcerer, Paul preaching at Athens, etc. The figures are as large as the life ; and over the door, behind the festons (*sic*) and other decorations, are the heads of Homer, Virgil, Milton, and Pope, all in *claro-obscuro*, by the same hand."

This home of the FitzMaurices, so graphically described by Dr Smith, went through the horrors of a siege in 1602. Sir Charles Wilmot, marching S., and finding his progress barred by the forces of FitzMaurice, swam his horses over the Cashen, which is the embouchure of the river Feale, and having secured his passage, laid siege to Lixnaw. By a clever device he cut the garrison off from the water and forced a capitulation. Few vestiges remain of this once goodly castle, where, according to the traditions, culture and refinement found a home, and where pleasant water parties on the river, and a variety of entertainments, prompted the Lady of Kerry to write that there were only two places in the world to live in—"London and Lixnaw."

In no part of Kerry is the tragedy of time so forcibly brought to mind as in viewing the remains of former days in Lixnaw. The grass-grown

KERRY

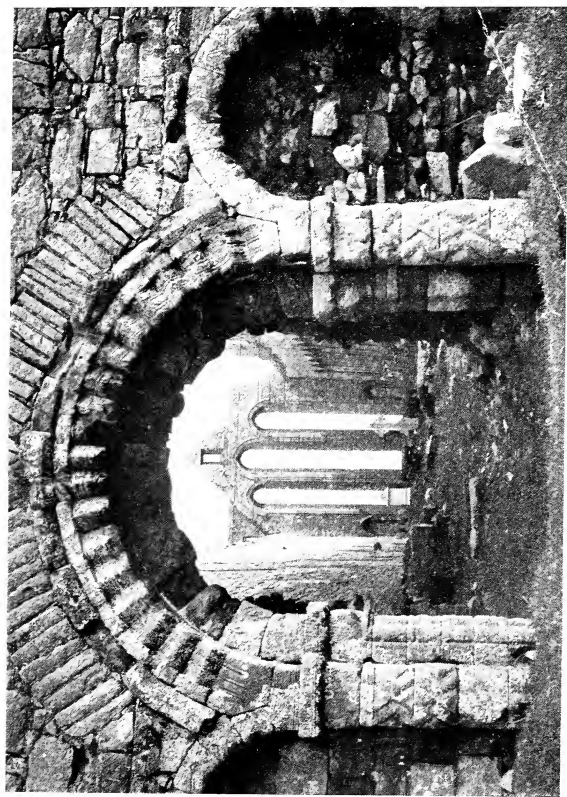
foundations speak eloquently of what has been, and the noisy jackdaws round the old weather-beaten tomb point the moral:—

“Our lives are rivers gliding free
To that unfathomed boundless sea—
The silent grave.
Thither all earthly pomp and boast
Roll to be swallowed up and lost
In one dark wave!”

The return journey from Lixnaw to Tralee may be made by road *via* Abbeydorney, or by train direct to Tralee.

The above excursions to Abbeydorney, Rattoo, and Lixnaw can be equally well carried out from Listowel, and might form an addition to those enumerated in Chapter X. of this Guide.

(8) *Tralee to Glounaneenty.* The low range of hills which stretch from near Tralee to the eastern bounds of the county of Kerry, bringing to mind a line of African kopjes with their passes or “neks,” contains one point called the Knight’s Mountain—faint echo from the feudal days. Not far from this point lies the scene of the last tragedy connected with the pathetic story of the house of Desmond. The road from Tralee to Castleisland (11 m.) or Killarney (20 m.) passes the cemetery about half-a-mile from the town on the L. hand side of the road. There is to be seen a small ruined chapel called Ratass, the doorway of which is a somewhat celebrated specimen of cyclopean masonry. Continuing along this road past the Poor House on the L., a good road leads due E., where the woods of Ballyseedy are passed (3 m.), and shortly after the cross-road on the R., which leads to Ballyseedy House, the home of the Blennerhassetts. From



ARDFERT CATHEDRAL—WEST DOORWAY



TRALEE

this cross a circular route leads by Farmers' Bridge back to Tralee. A few yards farther on a cross-road is met on the L. This road affords a pleasant drive or bicycle ride round by Chute Hall, back by the racecourse to Tralee (5 m.).

Leaving these roads and continuing the direction E. by the wild bit of plantation on the L. hand, Ballycarty Cross is reached (4 m. from Tralee). The R. hand road here goes by Farranfore to Killarney, and the L. hand road runs almost straight for Castleisland (7 m.). Continuing the journey along this road for about 2 m. a sharp turn leads up a slight hill to the L., and 1 m. of ups and downs brings the traveller to the chapel and little hamlet of Cloghers. Here a turn must be made to the L., and after a few yards a road to the R. leads into the hills. The scenery becomes more beautiful as the traveller proceeds—Scots firs, larch, and old oaks clothe the slopes, which lead down to a little mountain stream flowing in the depths of a glen. There is little to break the silence and solitude, and the view, looking back over the flat country and the southern hills, is exquisite. It was here that, in the year 1583, Gerald, 16th and last Earl of Desmond, was captured and slain. The place is still pointed out by the country folk, but whether the actual spot is identified cannot be said for certain. It is enough that the locality should be accurately distinguished. It is true that a particular place is called "Desmond's Grave"—though his grave it was not—the body of the murdered Desmond having been borne to Kilonaim, the little, ruined graveyard under the Cordal Hills beyond Castleisland.

The story of the last of the Desmonds has been so

often told that it would be tedious to repeat it in detail. Hunted from place to place, with a price on his head, his castles burnt and destroyed or in the hands of the English, the last Geraldine chief led a precarious existence for three years, 1580-83. The woods and fastnesses of the hills gave him shelter, and with a few followers, "the old evil children of the wood," he raided the lands of his former followers who had made their submission to the crown. His power had gone; his vast territory had been portioned out amongst the English undertakers; but his spirit was unbroken. He would "rather desert God than his men" was his reply to the suggestion of surrender. But the end was bound to come, and it came in this wise. From the shelter of the glens and woods of Derrymore away in the Slieve Mish Hills he sent some of his followers to raid the cattle of a man named Moriarty near Castlegregory. The animals were driven over the sands by Blennerville, and on by Tralee to Glounaneenty's wooded glen, where the chief felt secure. But Moriarty, crossing the mountains to Dingle, reported the matter to Lieut. Stanley, who commanded the Queen's forces in that place, and receiving from him permission to employ some soldiers to recover his stolen property, he made his way to Castlemaine, where the Constable gave him the aid he required. Moriarty with his soldiers tracked the cattle to Glounaneenty, and in the night surrounded the wretched cabin where the last Earl of Desmond lay. Finding the old man unarmed in the cabin, they asked who he was, and the reply came, "I am the Earl of Desmond: spare my life." A soldier named Kelly struck the Desmond's



ARDFERT ABBEY



TRALEE

head off, and it was sent to the Traitor's Gate in the Tower of London. The body was left where it fell till nightfall, when a few followers carried it to Kilonanaim graveyard and buried it there.

Kilonanaim means the "Church of the Name." Locally it is said to be so called from the fact that none but those of the name of FitzGerald are ever buried in that place. But we may perhaps go further back for the derivation to those times when Kerry was full of the memories of saints, and the "Church of the Name" was the church of the "Holy Name." There is no authority for this suggestion, except perhaps a lingering wish that it may be true.

Leaving the beautiful glen by the upper end where the wood straggles up the mountain side, the traveller comes out on the breezy uplands, where heathery hills stretch in undulating folds to the valley of the Feale. At the summit of the pass a road leads through this moorland county to the L. to a cross near the schoolhouse of Glounaneenty. Here a road leads to the R. to Knocknagree (5 m.) and Feale Bridge (8 m.), whilst a road turning L. up the hill slope again leads to a pass some 3 m. W. of Glounaneenty, and descending the southern slope carries the traveller past the little hamlet of Glanduff and so to Tralee (12 m.). At Glanduff the road may be taken direct on by the racecourse to the town of Tralee, or, turning to the L., through the shady way by Chute Hall to the cross near the cemetery and the ruined church of Ratass. Pretty views of cultivated plain and barren mountain with distant gleams of the sea may be enjoyed by the former route.

Chute Hall (3 m.). This good house with a

well-wooded park was formerly called Tulligarron, and was held by a branch of the family of M'Elligott, and came into the family of its present owners by marriage.

Ballymacelligott. Five m. from Tralee, and nearly midway between that place and Castleisland, is Arabella. A cross-road leads (1 m.) to a small collection of houses, with church and parsonage, which compose the village of Ballymacelligott. Near Arabella, "Castle Macelligott" stood till it was battered down by Cromwell's soldiers. The proprietor of Ballymacelligott married Grace Crosbie, and his son Colonel MacElligott, saved Colonel David Crosbie's life when Ballingarry fort was captured in the evil days of 1641. (See sub-chapter, Ballyheige and Ballingarry.)

(9) *Tralee to Castlemaine by "Foley's Glen."* A variety may be made in the monotony of car and train travelling if the traveller wishes, by sending luggage by train from Tralee to Castlemaine, and walking over the pass which leads straight S. over the hills to Castlemaine village (7 m.). The distance being short and the scenery striking, this diversion can be strongly recommended. The first part of the journey is made by the hill at Ballyard, past the pretty grounds of Ballyard House, the residence of Mr Robert FitzGerald, on the R., and thence to the foot of the pass ($2\frac{1}{2}$ m.), or by the road which leads from the town past the barracks, and turning to the R. at the ruined bit of Ballymullen Castle ($\frac{1}{2}$ m.), goes with one slight bend to the same point at the foot of the pass. A mountain torrent comes down the glen, hidden in places by trees and shrubs. The road follows the line of the stream for 1 m.,

TRALEE

till a rugged, ill-defined path is met on the R., leading to the depths of the glen and to Queen Scots's grave—a favourite resort of the people of Tralee in summer time. The so-called grave of the Milesian Queen Scots is a flat slab of stone carved with innumerable letters of modern description. The valley of the main stream lies W. from the point, and the head waters can be met 2 m. farther on in the moorlands.

Rejoining the high-road to the summit of the pass, the traveller goes through a wild bit of mountain scenery, and at the far end before the top is reached the hill is fairly steep. From the head of the pass, which is 1064 ft. over the sea, a grand panorama is obtained. Far beneath is the valley of the Maine and the Laune, backed by the Killarney hills, the Reeks, and Caragh Mountains; the whole country glimmers with lakes and streams, till dim and blue the mountains dip to the sea beyond Glenbeigh. A zigzag road, very steep in places, leads to the valley on the southern side of the pass. A mile from Castlemaine this road joins the main road from Tralee. Travellers should not omit to look at the Old Bridge at Castlemaine, and if the imagination is sufficiently vivid the picture of an ancient keep may be seen rising from the foundation piers of the bridge. Here was the old frontier fortress between Kerry and Desmond in the days of old—the key of the palatine county of Kerry—held at one time by MacCarthy More and at another by the Geraldines, till Elizabeth's Council deemed it too important to be entrusted to any but a Constable appointed by the Crown.

Queen Scotsa. The Queen Scotsa referred to in this chapter is said to have been a daughter of Pharaoh, and was the wife of Milidh a Milesian. According to the "Annals of the Four Masters," the age of the world was 3500 years when the Milesians came and fought a battle at Sliabh Mis (Slieve Mish), and Queen Scotsa was killed in that battle and buried in the glen through which the traveller has walked to Castlemaine.

(10) *Tralee to Castlegregory Junction, and over the Pass of Caherbla.* A very delightful day may be spent by going by the early train from Tralee to Castlegregory Junction (10 m.), and from that point following the road which runs by the R. bank of the Finglass River into the glen under the height of Caherconree (4 m.). This road is fair till the head of the glen is reached, when it becomes a loose gravelly mountain track torn by the torrents. The spring must be recommended as the time for this journey, when the larch woods in the glen are vivid green, and the uplands are glowing with gorse in bold contrast to the warm brown colours on the mountain. The view from the pass at the head of the glen and for the whole way down to the main road near Kiel affords the most beautiful views of Castlemaine and Dingle Bays, and the range of the Reeks and Carrantuohill. The return journey may be made by the road which runs from Kiel to Castlemaine (3 m.), and around the low eastern shoulder of the Slieve Mish range to Tralee. The whole distance from Castlegregory Junction over the pass to Castlemaine would be 13 m.

(11) *Tralee to Glountinassig.* When the spring days come and the brown of the mountains

is changing to subdued green under the influence of sunshine and soft rains; when the pinguicula or greater butterwort is out in full flower and cotton grass waves in the breeze, a visit to this beautiful glen is a pleasure to be long remembered. An easy journey by the light railway to Castlegregory Junction, and thence either by bicycle to the Owencashla River, or by train along the Castlegregory branch line as far as the primitive station of Aughashla, and thence by bicycle or on foot along the road which runs parallel to the river for 1 m., leads to the entrance of the glen called Glountinassig. Should the latter mode of travelling be adopted the traveller must from Aughashla Station return along the road towards the E. for $\frac{1}{4}$ m. to a branch road near a store, and turning to the R. there pursue the course of the river towards the glen (1 m.). At the entrance of the glen, a deep "coum," up in the mountain side to the L., marks the site of Lough Accumeen, where good trout are to be found and caught if the favourable wind plays on the lake, which is not of frequent occurrence. On the R. hand side across the river rises Benoskee Mountain (2713 ft.). Continuing the journey along the mountain road, and rounding the shoulder of the hill on the L., the road goes for a mile to a rough ford over a brook, and a steep incline leads to a couple of cottages, the only ones in the glen, from which point the track becomes little more than a footpath to the lone dark lake ($\frac{1}{2}$ m.), which lies at the head of the Owencashla River, under the cliffs, and is called Lough Slat. This lough is also fair fishing water, but difficult to fish on the far side, owing to the rough and precipitous shore.

KERRY

A little stream joins this lake at its N.W. end, and crossing this, and having in front the bold cliffs on the lower slope of Benoskee, a faint pathway leads through boulders and heather, difficult in parts to traverse, up the R. peak of the stream for $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. The stream must then be crossed to continue along the path up the L. bank, to where the water rushes over several miniature falls to within a short distance of the point marked by a low heathery rise, $\frac{3}{4}$ m. from Lough Slat. Here the stream must be crossed once more, and almost at once the waters of Coum Lough break on the view. A wild highland glen opens up, the bare hill sides unmarked by enclosures, and the silence broken by nothing save the bleating of the sheep or the tinkle of the waters. Two loughs, joined by a short stream, lie in the depths of this lovely glen, and in both loughs are small and gamey brown trout. The larger of these lakes, Coom Lough, is horse-shoe in shape, and its W. side, bounded by the crags and precipices of Benoskee, is hard to approach, but the southern and eastern shores are fairly accessible. The scenery is truly beautiful of its kind, and a day spent in this solitude will be appreciated by all true lovers of mountain scenery. The ridge of hills to the W. of this glen divides this eastern valley from the Coumenarde valley and lakes, and from the glen of Mahanaboe.

The return journey can be made either direct down the glen as far as Aughashla Cross, and thence to Castlegregory Junction, or, if time permits, and a real wild mountain climb and walk offer more attractions, by ascending the hills to the S., and keeping along the ridges and across

the wild open moorlands, due E. to Glounagalt, where the main road and main line to Auniscaul from Castlegregory Junction crosses the ridge of mountains. This journey is not recommended to any but those who are hardy mountaineers. Its attractions are many, but possibly might not be obvious to all people alike. Fine views of mountain and sea can be obtained, and the element of adventure and chance comes in with the necessity for using compass and map. But the journey needs good training, and that knowledge of hill walking which only comes by practice and experience. But the expedition to the loughs of Glountinassig can be safely recommended to all who are capable of walking, and who enjoy wild scenery. The way can hardly be missed, and even in rain and sea fog there is little chance of being benighted.

Castleisland. Eleven m. S.E. of Tralee by road and 12 m. by rail lies the town of Castleisland. The name of this town is taken from the "Castle of the Island," a principal stronghold of the Desmonds, which, standing out in the plain on an "inch," or island, formed by the dividing of the river Maine, guarded the passes over the hills which separate Kerry from Cork and Limerick. A few prone masses of masonry, a gaunt angle of a tower, and some lines of foundations amidst the emerald green where sheep graze, are all that now remain of this once famous castle. It dates to the year 1215, when Geoffrey de Marisco, a nephew of the Earl of Pembroke (Strongbow), built it. This Geoffrey de Marisco was Justiciar of Ireland, and established a community of Knights Hospitallers at Awney, in Limerick. Like all the Norman

settlers, he became fondly attached to Ireland, and left instructions that he was to be buried at Awney, whither his body was taken after his death on French soil. The "Castle of the Island" passed to the Geraldines through the marriage of Eleanor de Marisco with one of the Desmond chiefs. Later in the history of Kerry the castle passed to the Herberts, and in the days of King James I. the lands of Awney and Hospital were granted to an ancestor of the present Earl of Kenmare.

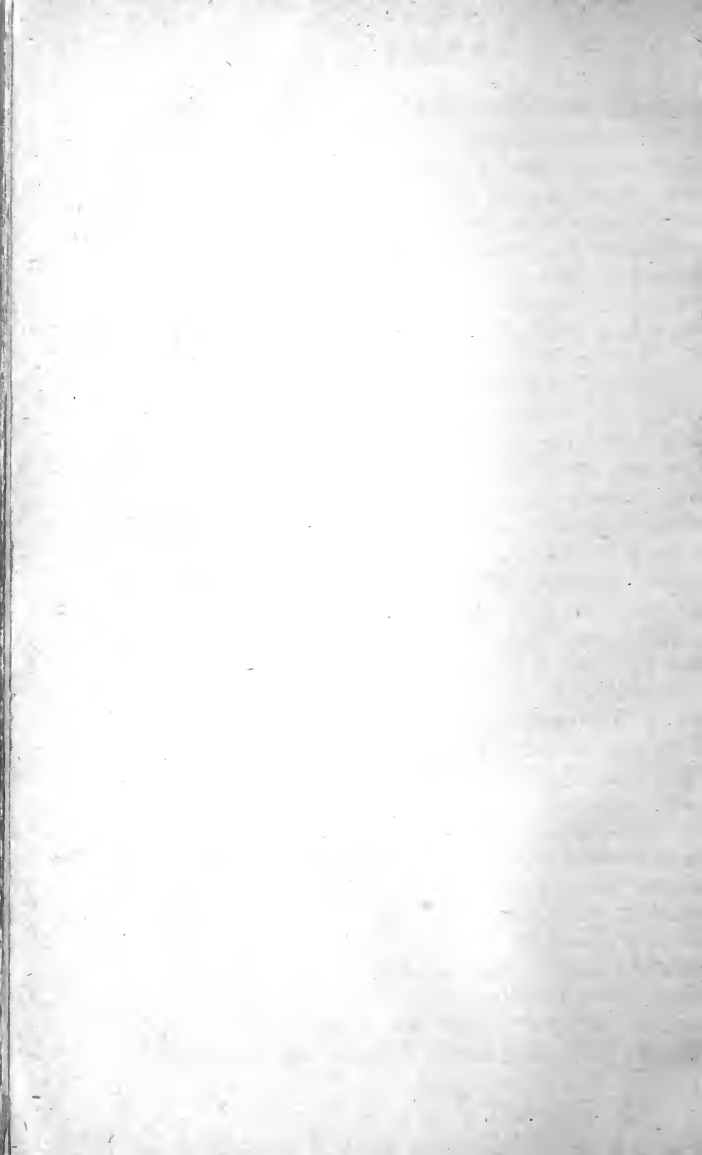
Cordal. Four m. S.E. of Castleisland, and on the direct route from that place to King Williamstown, the village of Cordal is reached, chiefly remarkable for the old tower of Ardnagreagh, one of the outlying castles around the great stronghold of "the Island," and for the little graveyard on the L. hand side of the road, close under the hills, called Kilonanaim, or the "Church of the Name." Here it was that the body of the last luckless Gerald, Earl of Desmond, was buried.

Brosna. A fine wild drive or cycle ride can be made from Castleisland to Brosna (10 m.), and thence down the valley of the Feale to Kilkinlea, and then turning to the L., pursuing the way by Knocknagoshel and Ivy Bridge to Tralee. The whole distance from Castleisland by this route to Tralee is 31 m. The roads are fairly good, sandy, mountain tracks, and the scenery presents a different character to the rest of Kerry—long sweeps of moorland, with far distant low hills. The air of this upland district is most invigorating.

Ardnagreagh (the Height of the Plunders), mentioned as one of the outposts of the great "Castle of the Island," was the principal castle of a branch of the Fitzgeralds who were known as the



DOORWAY, RATASS



“Aicme” (sept) or “Clann in Triucha” (the “Clan of the Cantred”), and it is interesting to note that the name of the barony, Trughenacmy, comes from these two designations, meaning Triucha and Aicme—the Cantred of the clan or sept.

Thomas FitzDavid Gerald of Ardnagreagh was attainted of high treason and his lands forfeited.

CHAPTER IX

DINGLE

I. *Approaches.* The barony of Corkaguiny (“the Fruitful Land”), to quote the words of the historian Camden, “shoots like a little tongue into the sea, roaring on both sides of it.” Dingle is the chief town in this barony, and from there as a centre excursions can be made to some of the most beautiful and interesting parts of the county of Kerry.

(1) The easiest and quickest way to get to Dingle is by the line of light railway (31 m.) direct from Tralee. This little up-and-down, narrow-gauge line follows as closely as possible the old mail-car route, and climbs the hills and runs down the steep inclines at a rate of about ten miles an hour. On leaving Tralee the first station is in the crumbling village of Blennerville, where gaunt and forsaken storehouses tell of days long past and gone when corn was exported in large amount from Kerry. From this point the route lies along the base of the Slieve Mish Mountains, where fine views of Tralee Bay and the distant cliffs of Kerry

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Head are obtained. On clear days the far-away point of Loop Head and the low hills of Clare are seen beyond the mouth of the Shannon. At Castlegregory Junction (10 m.) the line swings to the L., and crossing the gorge of the Finglas River, rises gradually for 4 m. to the summit of Gloun-na-galt. When crossing the Finglas River there is a very fine bit of scenery on the L., Caherconree rising on one side of the glen to the height of 2713 ft.

It may be not out of place to tell here the legend connected with this great mountain—a legend of Ireland's heroic age when Connor MacNessa reigned in the palace of Emania. At that time there dwelt in the Isle of Mana, off the coast of Scotland, a beautiful maid named Blanaid, in a palace stored with gold and priceless gems. The "Knights of the Red Branch," whose leader was the hero Cuchullin, gathered in force to plunder this isle, and a warrior named Conrigh or Curoi of Daire, hearing of the plan, disguised himself as a grey-coated clown and offered his services, saying he himself would take possession of the island fortress if he was given a choice of the jewels it contained. So the fort of Mana was plundered, and Blanaid the beautiful borne away. But when the knights came to divide the spoil the clown in the grey garb said, "Blanaid is the treasure I claim." And Cuchullin made answer, "Take thy choice of all the other jewels except Blanaid." But the clown replied, "I will take no exchange for her." And having an enchanted mask he bore away the maid unperceived to the southern shore of Munster. Cuchullin loved the beautiful Blanaid dearly, and

guided by a great flock of dark birds, he followed over the sea and found the maiden alone on the banks of the Finglas or white brook in Kerry. There she told the hero that she loved him above all other men, and implored him to come at the season of All Hallows with an armed force to carry her away. A signal was agreed on between Cuchullin and Blanaid. Encamped with his forces in a neighbouring forest, he was to watch the stream, and when he saw its waters running white he was to attack Curoi's stronghold.

Then Blanaid persuaded Curoi of Daire to build a fortress on the summit of the mountain of Caherconree which should surpass all the kingly forts of Erin, and to send his men throughout the land to find the greatest stones wherewith to build it. The guard being dispersed abroad, and Curoi alone and defenceless, Blanaid obtained numerous pails of milk and poured them into the stream. Cuchullin, seeing the waters running white and remembering the signal agreed upon, rushed in and slew Curoi of Daire and carried off the faithless Blanaid to Ulster to the palace of Emania. But Curoi's bard pursued the pair and found them on the promontory of Ken Barra with Connor MacNessa and a great company of knights and warriors. The bard watched his opportunity, and seeing Blanaid approach to the edge of the cliffs he came behind her and caught her in his arms and sprang with her into the wild sea. Such is the story of Curoi of Daire and beautiful faithless Blanaid, and the Finglas River to this day flows white in flood to bring the legend to mind.

On the R. of the railway as it ascends the side of the mountain may be seen far away Brandon

KERRY

Head, and nearer the white houses of the village of Castlegregory and the long spit of sand running into the Magharee Islands, which divide Tralee and Brandon Bays. Right below the line of rail is the flat alluvial plain studded with farms and looking rich and prosperous. Nearer at hand, Benoskee Mountain rises 2713 ft. in the air, to send offshoots which form the western boundary of the lonely little valley called Gloun-na-galt, or the "Glen of the Fools," so called from the tradition which says that all mad people find their way by instinct to the depths of this glen to drink of the well which is there to be seen. After topping Gloun-na-galt the line descends an incline which gives exquisite peeps of the sea and the Iveragh Mountains beyond Dingle Bay to Auniscaul, a quiet little village which gives many a stalwart lad to His Majesty's navy. From there the line again rises and affords some more beautiful views of the Bay of Dingle on the L. and of the bare wild mountains on the R. till it dips once more at Lispole and crosses a mountain stream by a fine iron girder bridge. The hill towering up on the R. at Lispole is Listorgan (2001 ft.), at the back of which are the wild and beautiful Coumanare Lakes, of which something will be said further on in this Guide.

From Lispole, 5 m. of flat bog country with an inbreak of the sea on the L., called the "Short Strand," and the range of the Connor Hill on the R., brings you to Ballintaggart. It was out in this flat bogland that the fight took place between the Knight of Kerry and Sir Charles Wilmot's forces in the year 1601. At Ballintaggart, a sharp turn to the R. brings into full view the bay and harbour

of Dingle, the distant island of Valencia, with the Skelligs Rocks and the rounded mass of Mount Eagle. Across the waters of Dingle Harbour may be seen the planted slopes around Burnham House, the home of Lord Ventry. A mile farther on the town of Dingle is reached.

(2) But there is another way to arrive which can be recommended as possessing more attractions, though withal more tedious and longer in point of time. The light railway should be taken advantage of as far as Castlegregory Junction, where a change is made for Castlegregory. From the latter place the traveller may go either by car or bicycle along by Steadbally and the base of Beenoskee Mountain to the cross-roads at Hillville (5 m.). A very fine view of the wide expanse of Brandon Bay backed by Brandon Mountain is obtained along the entire distance. At the cross of Hillville keep the road to the L., and passing along by Ballyduff and Kilmore keep straight on for Connor Hill. Some of the finest scenery in Kerry is obtained on this route. The first glen on the L. when the road crosses a bridge over a stream, and then leans somewhat to the right, is Mahanaboe. The next stream met with comes from Lough-a-Doon, and if rain has been about, the waterfall at the head of the lough can be seen racing down the mountain side, though the lough itself cannot be viewed from the road. The deep "coun," higher up to the R. as you face the waterfall, marks the site of Lough Coumclahane, beneath the high summit of Slieveanea (2024 ft.). Farther on, when the bit of scrubby wood at Kilmore is past, and the road begins to rise, Mount Brandon is seen in all its beauty of colour and

outline, rising from the broad valley of Cloghane. For 4 m. the road winds up the mountain side, giving views, one more charming than another, till the Pedlar's Lake is reached.

The scenery here should be carefully observed, for it is said that the tumbled masses of rock in the gorge below the little bridge, under which flows the stream from the lake, are the "moraine" of a glacier, and evidence of ice action may be observed on the smooth rocks on the L. hand side of the road. In the cliffs, along the side of this pass, the "London Pride" (*Saxifraga umbrosa*) grows in profusion. The summit of the Connor Hill Pass (1258 ft.) gives a wonderful view: to the S. the bay and the harbour of Dingle, and the long range of Iveragh Mountains, ending with Valencia; to the N. the whole Brandon range, with Lough Cruttin sunk in the depths of the mass. The country below is laid out like a map, and over the wide sweep of Brandon Bay can be seen Kerry Head and Loop Head, and on a very clear day the dim coastline of Galway. From this height the road descends gradually to Dingle (4 m.), opening up view after view from the Skelligs Rocks to the high points of the Reeks, far away to the E.

(3) There is a third way to get to Dingle. From Killarney, by train *via* Farranfore to Castlemaine, and thence along a somewhat dull road (10 m.) to Inch. From Inch to Auniscaul the road runs along the cliffs, a veritable Riviera road, where wild thyme and heather grow in profusion. From Auniscal to Dingle the road runs along the railway route already described for the whole distance. But the advantage of



GLOUNTINASSIG

going by this coast route is, that an opportunity can be taken of visiting Minard Castle, 4 m. from Auniscaul, and off the line of railway.

II. Dingle, surrounded almost by hills and on the shores of a shallow harbour, was once an important seaport town, enjoying a considerable trade with Spain. Queen Elizabeth, in 1585, granted a charter to the town, and gave it the same privileges enjoyed by the town of Drogheda. She also gave £300 to defray the cost of walling the town. James I. renewed its privileges, and gave it a charter to elect a "Sovereign" on St James's Day. A sword and mace were carried before this important person, and he was empowered to act as Justice of the Peace and Coroner, and had a considerable share of authority. At the present day there is little to remind visitors of past greatness. The fishing trade still flourishes, and the fine fleet of trawlers is evidence of the enterprise of the hardy sailor fishermen of this ancient seaport. On the hill, facing the entrance to the town from the E., stands the Catholic church, built of warm red sandstone, and in very good taste. Attached to it is the Presentation Convent. On the opposite slope, and on the R. of the railway station, is the school and religious house belonging to the Christian Brothers.

The Anglican Church, dedicated to St James, and alleged to have been built at the cost of the Spanish merchants and traders, though this seems unlikely, stands a little off the main street. It is a small unpretentious building, but contains an interesting tablet to a former Knight of Kerry, the inscription on which runs as follows:—

KERRY

“ Immodicis Brevis Est Ætas
Et rara Senectus.

H. S. E.

Jonannes FitzGerald. Eques Kerriensis,
En Antiqua Stirpe Equitum Kerriensium,
Oriundus

Suavitate Ingenii, Et integritate morum eximius
Erat in ore Venustus.

In pectore Benevolentia

In Verbis Fides

Candidus, Facilis, Jucundus

Quot notos tot habuit amicos

Inimicum certe neminem

Talis quum esset. Febri Correptus

Immature obiit

A.D. 1741.

Hoc Monumentum

Charrissimi mariti memoriæ sacrum

Margaretta Conjux

Mœrens Posuit.”

It has been translated as follows :—

“ To the immoral, Life is short and old age rare.

Here lies buried

John FitzGerald, Knight of Kerry,
Sprung from the ancient race of the
Knights of Kerry. Remarkable for the
sweetness of his disposition and the
purity of his morals.

He was beautiful in countenance,
Benevolence was in his heart and
Truth in his words.

He was upright, gentle and equable.

Every acquaintance was a friend, not one an enemy.
Being such a man, seized by fever, he died prematurely
in the 35th year of his age, A.D. 1741.

Sacred to the memory of her beloved husband,
His grieving wife Margaret erected this monument.

Behind the church stands “The Grove,” a somewhat dilapidated building, surrounded by trees. This

was the old home of the Knights of Kerry in days long past. It was burnt during the Desmond wars. In course of time "The Grove" passed to the Townsend family, when the Knights of Kerry took up their residence at Glanleam, in Valencia Island.

(1) *From Dingle round Sleat Head.* This attractive drive or cycle ride affords magnificent views of cliff and sea scenery, and takes the visitor through some remarkably interesting country, interesting from an antiquarian as well as a scenic point of view. Leaving Dingle by the western road, which skirts the E. shore of the harbour, Milltown Cross is reached ($1\frac{1}{2}$ m.). The road turns sharp to the L. over the bridge, and ascending the steep hill meets the old road to Ventry at Monaree Cross. Keeping still the L. hand road over the little stream of Monaree, the traveller passes the entrance to Burnham House, formerly called Ballingolin, the residence of Lord Ventry. The grounds around the house have been carefully planted, and the shelter afforded by these plantations allows the bamboo, tree-fern, and many choice varieties of shrubs to flourish. The *escalonias* hedges, *dracænas*, and tree-ferns in the gardens and grounds at Burnham are well worth inspecting; but as the grounds are private, permission has to be obtained. The ground, sloping up to the house from the shores of Dingle Harbour, rises to some 600 ft. in the cliffs of Eske, and, dipping towards the N., goes to form the low cliffs along the E. side of Ventry Harbour to the low, sandy, northern shore. Continuing along, past Burnham, to the small collection of thatched cottages at Ballymore, the road swings to the R., and brings full into

view Mount Eagle (1695 ft.), and Marhin Peak (1357 ft.), and the wave-washed sands of Ventry, a truly beautiful view. On the R. of the road are some interesting antiquarian remains of subterranean houses, beehive huts, or "cloghanes."

Ventry village (4 m.) consists of a small number of houses which look right over the harbour to the coastguard station on the far side. A short distance beyond the village the road for Sleah Head turns to the L., that going straight N. leading to Rahinane Castle, and eventually by a wild mountain track, with a fair surface, to Ballyferriter and Smerwick harbour.

(2) *Rahinane*, standing ruined and forsaken on the slope of the hill, was formerly the old country house of the Knights of Kerry, whose town house was "The Grove" in Dingle. The remains of this once strong castle afford a fair example of the ancient "keeps," which were formerly held in the stormy days of old. The castle was burnt and destroyed by Sir Charles Wilmot in 1601, when he was sent to reduce Kerry to submission after the abortive rising under O'Neill and O'Donnell. The Knight of Kerry at that period was daring enough to take the field in opposition to the English forces, and having met with defeat at Ballinahow, near Dingle, he paid the penalty in the loss of his castle of Rahinane.

Leaving Rahinane behind, and returning to the cross-road near Ventry village, the traveller continues on past the lonely little chapel on the L., and having Marhin and Mount Eagle on his R. for some 3 m., always keeping the L. hand road, to Fahan, where the old watch-tower stands on the

cliffs overlooking the sea, a short distance from the main road. This old tower, like many others around the coast, was built for the accommodation of soldiers when Ireland was threatened by a French invasion in the days of Napoleon. Near Fahan, and on the L. of the road, is Dunbeg Fort. This fine specimen of cyclopean work, marking the culminating period of Irish heroic history just prior to the introduction of Christianity, consists of three ramparts and a main stone wall, reaching across the headland on which the fort stands. This wall is 200 ft. long and 22 ft. thick. The inner wall is 9 ft. in height and the outer 5 ft. The doorway in this massive construction is specially worthy of notice. A mile beyond Dunbeg, on the R. of the road, is a collection of beehive huts, some of them being in an excellent state of repair. This interesting group of buildings goes usually by the name of "The Town." Here also we are face to face with the pre-historic age merging into the ecclesiastical period. Thence the good, fairly surfaced road winds along the edge of the cliffs, at the base of Mount Eagle, affording fine views of the Blasket Islands, Innishnabro, Innishvickillane, and the Great Blasket and Beginish. At Dunquin, the little fishing village opposite the Great Blasket, a boat may be obtained and a visit made to the nearer islands. And here it may not be out of place to give some short notices of these interesting outposts of Kerry.

(3) *The Blasket Islands.* The name Blasket is said to be derived from the Irish word "Blaosc" or "Blaosg," meaning a scale or shell, and like most Celtic names its meaning

is apparent, the islands being "scaled" off the mainland. Formerly they were part of the possessions of the great Earls of Desmond. A family of the name of Ferriter obtained them as a gift, and afterwards forfeited them to the Crown when the Desmond wars were over. In 1586 they were granted by letters patent to George Stone, of Kingston, in Surrey, and Cornelius Champion, and eventually they were sold to Richard Boyle, first Earl of Cork, and have been in the family down to the present day. These islands were the centres of a large Spanish fishing industry in the days of Queen Elizabeth. It was in the "Sound," with its treacherous rocks and rushing tide, that *Our Lady of the Rosary*, one of the Spanish Armada, was wrecked on Tuesday, 10th September 1588. This badly battered ship, of 1000 tons burden, her tackle torn by shot, and a hole in her hull between wind and water, laboured on to try and reach a harbour. She was commanded by the Prince of Ascule, son of the King of Spain, and with him were Don Pedro, Don Diego, Don Francesco, and seventy other "gentlemen of account," and a ship's company numbering in all five hundred souls, and Michel Ocquendo was "governor" of the ship. The pilot, "small blame to him," as they say, ran her on a rock by accident, and only one person out of the whole number on board was saved. This man, John Antonio de Monona, son of the pilot, and a Genoese by birth, was afterwards examined by Sir William Herbert, Lord President of Munster, and in his statement gave a minute description of the Prince of Ascule, telling how, when the ship went down, this gay Spaniard was

clothed in a suit of white satin, with russet silk stockings, and his "doublet and breeches cut after the Spanish mode"—a gallant if ineffective figure to be wrecked in the Blasket Sound!

The Great Blasket is three miles in length, and is inhabited by a few families. On the Tearaght to the W. is a lighthouse. To this rock the puffins come in spring to nest, and the little storm petrel, or "Mother Carey's chicken," finds a home for its young in the clefts of the rocks. The remains of an ancient church are to be seen on Innishvickillane.

At Dunmore Head the traveller stands on the extreme western point of the mainland of Ireland. Dunquin, the little village where the people speak Gaelic in the cottages, is the "next parish to America," in the language of the district. Onwards the road winds, crossing here and there a mountain streamlet, or dipping down some steep "coum," till Clogher Head is reached, and a good view is obtained of Innistooskert, lying out on the sea, and the Tearaght, almost on the horizon. The road trends E. from Clogher Head, and gives good views of Sybil Head and the "Three Sisters," and in the far distance Smerwick Harbour, beyond which rises Ballydavid Head and the imposing height of Brandon.

Ballyferriter village, sheltering under Marhin Mountain, is the place from which to make an expedition to Fort del Ore, situated on the W. shore of Smerwick Harbour, and distant about 2 m. from Ballyferriter village. A fair road leads towards the sands of Smerwick, and bicycles can be left in a neighbouring cottage as the road ends in the sands. A flat bit of bog land, rich in summer time with a wealth of wild flowers, lies between Ballyferriter

and the slopes of the "Three Sisters," the points which mark the cliff line to the N. At the foot of the eastern "Sister," and not far from the cluster of cottages forming the village of Smerwick, is the famous Fort del Ore of unhappy memory.

(4) Any of the country folk will point out the place, and show the old earthworks, still visible, and the causeway connecting the miniature rock fortress with the mainland. An observer cannot fail to be struck with the smallness of the fort and its surroundings, and when he calls to mind the fact that from 600 to 800 Spanish and Italian adventurers held it against Lord Grey de Wilton in 1580, he cannot help wondering at the temerity of the strangers who thus ventured to defy disciplined and well-armed forces in such an untenable position. Every one knows the story, how in the winter weather of 1580 the English soldiers, with whom was Edmund Spenser the poet, and Walter Raleigh, then a young captain in the Queen's service, dreaming of glory to come, marched from Dingle to reduce this so-called fortress. How Admiral Winter, sailing round to co-operate, with the little *Revenge* and other ships, assisted in the bombardment, and how, after a three days' fight, the garrison capitulated and were put to the sword and thrown into the sea.

It is a tale of rough and savage warfare, which sounds strange to us in modern days. Whether we accept the story that Lord Grey broke his faith with the enemy, or the version which makes the unconditional surrender of the invaders an excuse for the savage butchery, we must admit that the killing of the garrison has left

DINGLE

a stain on the names of gallant gentlemen who served their land right well in after years. In the State Paper Office there is a plan of this fort, with the guns firing, and the English ships bearing names which sound homely to this day—the *Achate*, the *Tiger*, the *Marlyon*, the *Swiftsure*, the *Revenge*. Fort del Ore takes its name, the “Golden Fort,” from supposed treasure said to be hidden there by the Spanish; also perhaps from the fact that one of Martin Frobisher’s treasure ships was wrecked in Smerwick Harbour, and the gold buried near here. This tradition of hidden gold obtains to this day. Returning to Ballyferriter, the road continues E., with a branch turning sharp to the R., which leads back by Rahinane to Ventry, about 1 m. from the village.

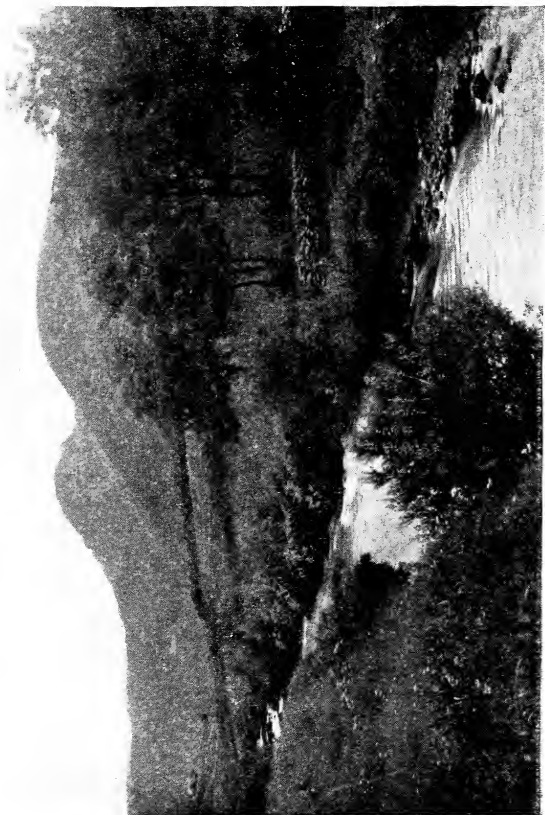
The return journey may be made either by this route or continuing on still E. to the pass of Knockavrogeen, and thence almost in a straight line S. (4 m.) to Milltown and Dingle. Perhaps, as this road will have to be traversed in the journey on another occasion to Gallerus, a pleasant variety might be made by returning from Ballyferriter by the mountain road by Rahinane and Ventry, and turning to the L. in Ventry village to take the old road to Monaree Cross, and so to Dingle.

(5) *Dingle to Gallerus Oratory and Kilmalchedor.* Leaving Dingle again by the road along the E. side of the harbour, or over the hill by the Poor House at Milltown, cross the bridge and turn to the R. just beyond the mill. This road runs straight as a die for about 2 m. to the rise of the hill which leads to the pass of Knockavrogeen.

At this point three roads meet; one going to the L. leads on to Ballyferriter, Smerwick, and Fort del Ore, another good road winding round the shoulder of the hill to the E. leads to Kilmalchedor, whilst a third drops down through a collection of cottages to Gallerus Castle, built by the Knights of Kerry long ago, which may be seen in the flat land beneath.

Gallerus Oratory. Following this last-named road for $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile the traveller sees on his R. the quaint stone-roofed oratory of Gallerus, distant a few yards from the road. This oratory, with the group of beehive huts close by, is one of the best specimens of the earliest period of Christian architecture, which in this particular district is so closely connected with the name and fame of St Brandon. A low doorway leads to the interior, which is lighted by a solitary E. window, circular in shape. No ornament of any kind is seen in this rude edifice, but the mind is impressed by the severe, cold, ascetic shrine which brings so forcibly back the early missionary efforts of the Celtic Church, and the days when the followers of Christ fled to the wilderness and the lonely isles to pray and preach and civilise the land which was torn by strife.

Here we are in the heart of St Brandon's country; for though his life was a busy and active one from the early days, when he studied with St Jarlath of Tuam and St Finian of Clonard, embracing a journey to Brittany and the foundation of a monastery there, the founding of Ardfert and a journey to America, it would seem that his heart was ever in his Kerry home, in the shadow of the mountain which bears his name. It is a remarkable fact that in springtime the



MAHANABOE GLEN



ground about these old shrines of prayer is always decked with the fairest flowers—blue hyacinths and primroses seem to flourish around them more than in other spots, as though Nature had determined to perpetuate the memory of these simple lives.

Returning to the cross-roads at the top of Knockavrogeen Pass, and taking the eastern route which leads towards the village of Kilmalchedor, collections of beehive huts are to be seen on the L. of the road. About a mile and a half from the cross-roads the old cathedral of Kilmalchedor is seen, grey and roofless, but venerable in its memories, and hard by is the monastery where St Brandon dwelt. The traveller is now on classic ground, for through the mists which ages have gathered round the story of St Brandon the main facts shine bright and clear. Here is the home of the saint, and here the site of the church in which he said Mass and preached the Gospel to the people. Behind the church, and leading over hill and dale, ever going upwards, is the pilgrims' road leading to the summit of Mount Brandon, 3127 ft. above the sea, where the remains of the oratory are still to be seen, and the holy well which is never dry, even in the hottest weather. Four m. have to be traversed between the cathedral of Kilmalchedor and the oratory on the mountain top, and if the modern traveller cares to tread the way of the saint, he will be well rewarded by the lovely views of sea and mountain to be obtained along the route.

Legend says that on one occasion St Brandon forgot his missal on his way to the oratory, and so great was the company of holy followers that word was passed from mouth to mouth along the

"pilgrim's way," and the book handed up from hand to hand. Strange as this legend may seem, the learned Society of Antiquarians has asserted that it loses its improbability when the multitude of evidence of a vast community of holy men is found on every side in this district. Other legends of the saint are still to be heard from the country people—legends of St Brandon's cow and the thief who stole it—the prints of whose hand and knee may still be seen in the rocks by the roadside. St Brandon has been named the "Navigator," and it is said that he, and not Columbus, was the first discoverer of America. Sailing away to the N.W. he landed on the shores of the New World, and there met an angel who told him that the time for the conversion of the North American tribes had not yet arrived. So the saint returned. All these legends, and many more besides, which there is no space to recount, can be heard in this district to the present day.

(6) *The Cathedral of Kilmalchedor.* The church of St Malchedor, who was a contemporary of St Brandon, is said by some to have been built by the Spaniards; but this is doubtful. The Romanesque architecture points to the date as being about the 9th century of the Christian era, but probably there was an ecclesiastical structure even before that time. The pillar stone at the W. end of the church is said to be one of the most ancient of monuments, and bears the whole alphabet of the 6th century in Roman characters, above which is inscribed the word "Domine." The round-arched, "dog-toothed," western doorway and the blind arcade with round pillars in the interior of

the chancel are worth observing. The E. window, round topped also, bears evidence of the friction of human bodies, for people still crawl through it to cure them of their ailments. Rude stone crosses stand in the graveyard, marking long-forgotten graves. The foundation of this church is later than the oratory at Gallerus, though, in all probability, the latter was used at the same time as the cathedral.

Leaving Kilmalchedor and all its interesting relics of bye-gone days, the road leads E. and then N. and E. again, past another stone oratory (1 m.) similar to that at Gallerus, but in a less perfect state of preservation. At the E. side of the harbour of Smerwick is seen the white coastguard station, and a good view is obtained up Ballydavid Head, crowned by a crumbling tower, one of the many built to watch for the foe in the days of the French wars. About 4 m. from Kilmalchedor this road meets the road leading direct from Dingle to Brandon Creek, or, as it is sometimes called, Cloosawithic. It would be well to turn to the L. at this point, and following the road at the base of Mount Brandon, pay a visit to this creek. A group of fishermen's cottages and a store, where a variety of useful articles can be bought, marks the end of this road. Crossing the sward a few yards brings the visitor to the creek, a deep cleft eaten into the land by the sea. A good pier has been built by the "Congested Districts Board" here, and 70 or 80 "canoes" can be seen turned bottom upwards looking like great black beetles. These canoes are formed of a frail framework of laths covered with tarred canvas, and are most seaworthy craft. On an evening when the herring fishing is in full swing

this creek presents a most animated appearance with the crowd of fishermen making ready to embark for the night's fishing. It is worth while to ascend the cliffs, either to the R. or L. of this creek, to enjoy the fine views of cliffs and sea scenery and to hear the cries of the sea birds. It is possible here to see a raven or two, and the choughs along this part of the coast are comparatively common. The return journey from this delightful tour may be made by the direct road (10 m.) which leads to Dingle.

Gallerus Castle. Gallerus Castle, which has been mentioned in this chapter, was one of the old castles of the Knights of Kerry, and is a mediæval building of the usual type found throughout the county. It was probably built as an outpost to keep the district around Smerwick and Ballyferriter in order. But there is a story connected with it which cannot but appeal to all who feel the fascination of the wild scenery in this part of Kerry. One of the FitzGeralds, when he was dying, begged his attendants to carry him to a window of the castle where he might see the long line of breakers on the shores of Smerwick Harbour. Those who know the view will call to mind the background of the "Three Sisters," faint in colour, over a green and violet sea, and the white foam fringing the golden sands. The dying Geraldine gazed long at this beautiful scene, and when his attendants wished to bear him back to his couch he refused to leave the window and was supported by their arms. At last he lay quite still and silent, and his attendants then saw that he was dead. He had died with his last gaze on earth resting on this loved Kerry scene.

(7) *From Dingle to Cloghane and back, over the Pass of Mullochveal.* A delightful excursion can be made by driving from Dingle over the Connor Hill Pass to Cloghane village, and from that place doubling back along the W. side of the Cloghane Valley under the E. slope of Brandon Mountain to the White Lake, or Lough Gal, as it is sometimes called. From Lough Gal the return journey to Dingle can be made on foot over the hills by the pass of Mullochveal. The total distance traversed by this excursion will be 24 m., of which 17 m. can be done by cars. Leaving the town of Dingle by the direct road for Connor Hill, "The Grove" is passed on the L. hand, and almost at once there is a gradual incline leading for 4 m. to the top of the pass. The old road will be seen running straight for the hill on the L. of the coach road at first, but when the traveller has gone $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. he crosses this old road at right angles, and will see it on his right in the valley through which the Garfinny River flows. The ascent of Connor Hill from the S. does not present the same bold characteristics as that from the northern side, which has been before mentioned. But the views obtained on a clear day are ample reward for the journey; that of the steep side of Mount Brandon rising from the plain of "Letteragh," which breaks suddenly on the traveller on arriving at the top of the pass, being one of the finest in the county.

On descending the incline on the N. side of the Connor Pass a ruined farmstead can be seen by the side of Lough Clogharee, far below. This was once the dwelling of a man who slew his neighbour in this desolate district, and the

ruins bring back the memory of the crime. One m. from the top of the pass a great precipice, a short way from the road on the R., marks the place where lies the "Pedlar's Lake," so called from the following story. A wanderer who had left his home and the girl he loved, in Auniscaul, returned one dark winter evening disguised as a pedlar. Endeavouring to make his way over the mountains from Mahanaboe to Auniscaul, he fell in with two brothers, who decoyed him to the vicinity of this dark place, and having robbed him they threw him into the lough. The robbers then went over the hills to Auniscaul and showed part of their spoil unwittingly to the girl to whom the poor "pedlar" was engaged. She recognised a broken sixpence as a love token, and inquiries being made the "pedlar's" body was found and buried at Killiney, and his poor sweetheart followed him to the grave a year later. The ruffians who murdered the "pedlar" escaped.

From the bend of the road at the "Pedlar's Lake" a good view is obtained of the Cloghane Valley, which extends across from Connor Hill to Brandon, and through which flows the Owenmore or Cloghane River. At the head of the glen the following loughs can be seen:—The "Black Lake," Lough Gal or the White Lake, and Lough Clogharee, whilst far in the recess of Brandon Mountain can be seen Lough Cruttia. A few yards on the Dingle side of the "Pedlar's Lake" gorge a little trickling stream flows down the side of the rock. The water is said to be the best in Kerry. The road on to Kilmore ($2\frac{1}{2}$ m.), at the foot of the Connor Hill, is a gradual descent, steeper in some places than others. A bit of plantation at



DUNBEG FORT

Kilmore gives variety to the bare mountain scenery. A turn to the L. at this place leads to Cloghane Bridge, and after crossing this and going for $\frac{1}{4}$ m. towards the village, a road turns sharp to the L. and runs along the western side of the broad valley of Cloghane.

This beautiful highland glen is bounded on the E. by the mountain chain which begins at Mahanaboe, and includes the Coumenard Mountains, and the imposing height of Slieveanea over Lough Coumclahane. The southern end of the valley is blocked by Ballysitteragh (2050 ft.), which bends round to the pass of Mullochveal, and then rises to form the "saddleback" peak of Brandon, which bounds the valley on the W. Along this mountain road the views are magnificent, and it is well to note that which is obtained of Brandon from the vicinity of the little stream which rises from Lough Cruttia to join the Cloghane River. A few farm-houses are at this point, and the patches of cultivated land, with a few trees, break the heathery slopes, at the back of which is the wild glen of Lough Cruttia. The lake is not seen from the road, but a walk up the hill-side to obtain a view of this solitude will be a pleasure to any one who cares for wild scenery. Lough Avoonane, under the high precipice nearer at hand, can also be visited from this point of the road. Though different in character from Lough Cruttia, the head of this miniature lough formed by the sheer side of Brandon Peak is very impressive.

As the road leads on round the shoulder of Brandon Peak to the W., views are obtained of the "White Lake" (Lough Gal) and the "Black

Lake," almost hidden by the shadowing cliffs, and fronted by the emerald green of the cultivated bit of land which surrounds the little village of Mullochveal. Near the White Lake the car must be abandoned, as the road, "from this out," as the saying goes, is a bad bit of rock and rut, broken in places, when the hillside is reached, by the washing of winter storms. A zigzag track, suitable enough for foot-passengers, leads to the summit of Mullochveal Pass, where a glorious view is obtained of the country lying to the W. Smerwick Harbour is seen, and the Blasket Islands beyond Mount Eagle, and the Skelligs Rocks far out to sea.

There are two ways of getting to Dingle from the head of this pass, one by the grassy road which falls down the mountain slope to adjoin the main road from Dingle to Brandon Creek at the village of "Glens." The other, a mere track leading S. along the ridge of the mountains, is indicated for the most part of the route by a rude line of stones. This rough mountain track follows the edge of the steep cliffs in places, and crossing the shoulder of the Ballysitteragh spur and "Scraggs," eventually enters Dingle by the low rise behind the Workhouse. The stones which mark this pathway extend almost in an unbroken line from Mullochveal to Dingle in one direction, and in the other go up the side of Brandon Peak in the direction of the oratory. Possibly in former times this was an old pilgrims' road. This supposition is borne out by the remains of beehive huts and the foundations of an old square chapel with attendant cells, which are met with about half-way along the route. This is a walk which can be strongly recommended to all who love the mountain scenery.

DINGLE

(8) *Dingle to Beenbawn Head.* Visitors to Dingle should not fail to walk along the shores of the harbour as far as "Nancy Browne's Parlour," a well-known ledge of rock near the little lighthouse. In the caves about this part the *Asplenium marinum* grows profusely. A pathway leads from this lighthouse to the top of "Beenbawn Head," which stands out boldly against the waters of the bay and the distant Iveragh Mountains. From Beenbawn Head a delightful extension of the walk may be made to the "Short Strand," or "Trabeg," which affords a view of Bull Head. The cliffs at this part of the coast are not of conspicuous height, but the infinite variety of colouring and the beauty of their forms makes this walk extremely interesting. Turning inland at the "Short Strand," the return journey may be made by the little village of Tubber and along the bye-road which leads to Ballintaggart. On the green hill to the S. of Ballintaggart House an enclosure marks the site of a circle of Ogham stones which are well worth a visit.

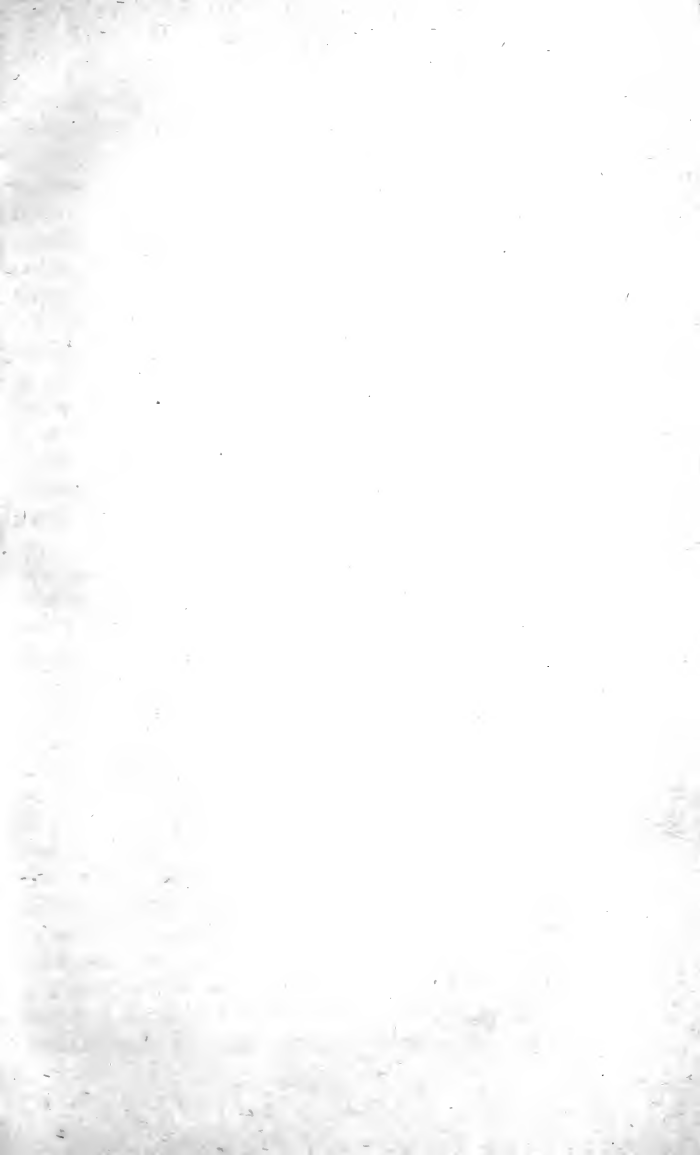
(9) *Ascent of Mount Brandon.* There are three easy ways of ascending this beautiful mountain.

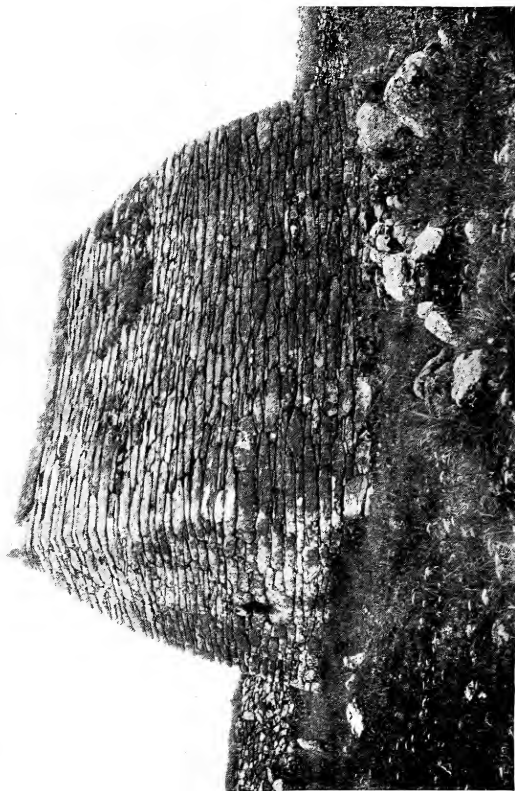
1. From Ballinloughig village, distant 7 m. from Dingle on the road direct to Brandon Creek. The ascent from this point is quite simple, and a couple of hours' walking takes the climber to the top of the mountain. Any one in the village of Ballinloughig will point to the direction, and there is nothing except a possible mist to prevent the most inexperienced climber finding his way. In this ascent the deep gorge, where the Feohana River rises, is left on the R. hand side, and, should time permit, it would be well to vary the return

journey by descending near the head of this fine glen and following the line of the river back to the village.

2. Along the hill slope N. of the town of Dingle, before indicated, to the top of Mullochveal Pass, and thence along the W. side of the saddle-back peak of Brandon to the summit by way of the ridge of the mountain. This route is longer in point of time.

3. From the village of Cloghane an ascent can be made by the comparatively easy slope which the shoulder of the hill affords, keeping the great wild glen, where Lough Cruttia lies, on the L. hand side. This is a well-known ascent, but if the weather is cloudy or the mist is hanging about, it would be well to take a guide. On the higher point of Mount Brandon are the remains of the old oratory where St Brandon said Mass, and also the holy well, which is said never to be dry, even in the hottest and driest summer weather. The view from the top of Brandon is one of the celebrated sights of Kerry, and it is enhanced by the magnificent cliffs, which seem to break off suddenly on the E. side and to go sheer down to the Cloghane valley. Experienced mountain climbers might find great joy in descending the mountain by the wild Lough Cruttia gorge. But this cannot be recommended to any but experienced mountaineers. From the summit on a clear day may be seen, far away to the N.E. over the well-known headlands of Kerry and Clare, the dim coast of Galway; to the S.E. the Killarney Lakes and mountains and Caragh Lake, whilst to the S. are seen the whole chain of Iveragh Mountains, Valencia Island, the Skelligs, Bull, Cow, and Calf Rocks,





GALLERUS ORATORY

Dursey Island. All the Blaskets are seen to the W. It is a marvellous view, and one never to be forgotten. But a clear day is essential.

(10) *Dingle to Castlegregory, over Connor Hill.* The journey over Connor Hill has been described in another portion of this Guide, and it only remains to endeavour to point out the way by which a traveller may vary his return journey from Dingle by visiting Castlegregory and the "Magharees." After passing Kilmore at the foot of the northern slope of Connor Hill, the road continues on straight to the cross near "Hilleville." A diversion might be made by turning to the L. a mile from Kilmore, and following the road which runs by the side of the little Glennahoo River to the bridge (1 m.) near the school-house of Farranakilla. Crossing this bridge, and continuing the journey to the E. by the side of the inlet which lies between the sandhills and the wooded slopes of Fermoy, the traveller joins the direct road again at Hilleville Cross. Half a mile beyond the village of Stradbally (2 m. from Hilleville Cross) a road leads to the L. direct for Castlegregory, passing the little church of Killiney on the R. hand side. To visit the Magharee Islands a stop should be made in the village of Castlegregory, and the directions given by any courteous inhabitant of that little hamlet should be followed. The road to the Magharees leaves the village at its northern end, and running (1 m.) N. crosses a little bridge over the river flowing from Lough Gill, the shallow lake which lies between the sandhills and the rest of Ireland. From this bridge there is but a sandy shore road winding through the dunes, where potatoes are cultivated with great success, to a collection of houses called

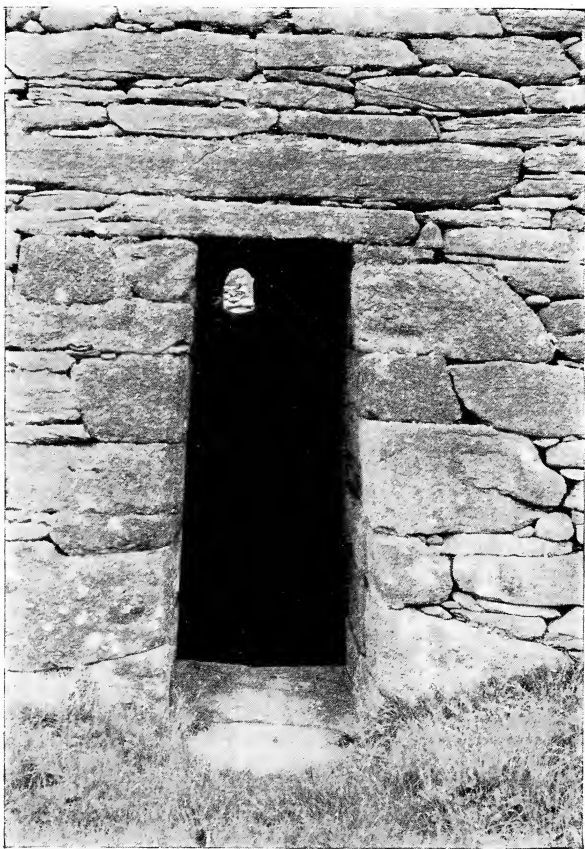
Killshannig. Here a canoe may be obtained to cross the strait which lies between the main island and the sandy peninsula of the Magharees. The group of islands called the "Magharee" or "Seven Hogs" Islands consists of Illauntannig or Leary's Island, Illaunimmil, Innishtooskert, and Gurrig Island, and a few others which are little more than wave-washed rocks.

Leary's Island or Illauntannig is the only one inhabited, and on it are to be found the remains of an old church with beehive huts and an old rude cross about which wonderful legends have gathered. Once upon a time some daring soul transported this cross to the mainland, but by some mysterious means it was borne back to the island again and has remained there ever since. The church, too, has its legend. Kilsagnene or Kilshannig means the "lonesome church," and tradition has it that at some remote period of our history a Spanish ship arrived here with a number of the crew dead of some frightful unknown disease. The survivors interred the bodies in the night time in this church, and ever since then the people of Kilshannig have been afraid to open any new grave in this place lest they should "wake the plague."

"R." in the *Kerry Magazine* wrote years ago about this, but there is only space here for one verse of the poem—

"And never from the day of fate
Was burial in Kilshannig known,
Plague smit, abandoned, desolate,
The 'Lone Church' stands forever lone."

There are the legends connected with Kilshannig and the islands, some of which are here briefly given.



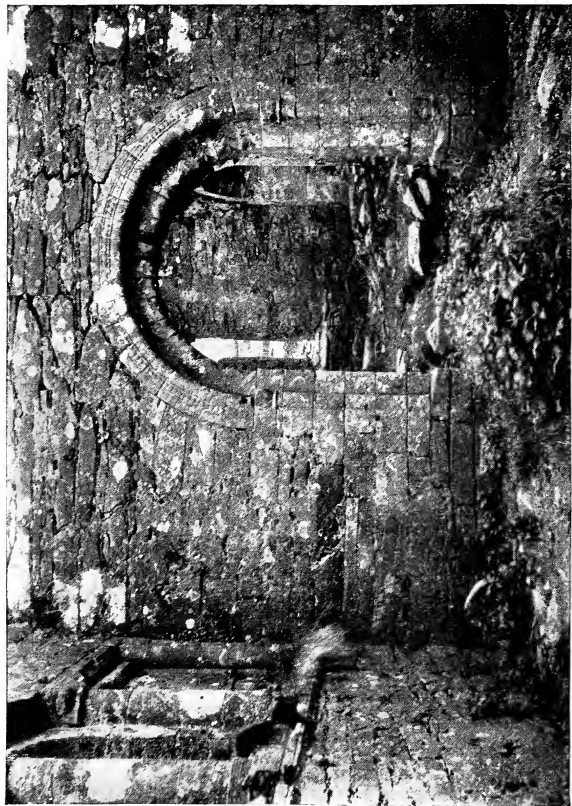
DOORWAY, GALLERUS ORATORY



Many years ago, when vessels went with grain from Tralee to Limerick up the Shannon, a strange vessel called the *York* hailed a grain ship off Kerry Head—"Ahoy there, can you guide us to Tralee?" The Kerry men hove to and then bore off S. towards the Magharees with the strange ship following in their wake. Pirates were not uncommon in those days, and the Kerry men as they sailed came to the conclusion that the stranger was a pirate. So they piloted her through the channel which separates the large island of Illauntannig from the mainland. There the *York* struck on a rock. She had fifty men on board, and was laden with chests of gold and treasure. Immediately on striking the rock, the crew of the *York* trained their bow guns on the Kerry boat which had piloted them to their doom. But their shots fell wide of the mark, and the Kerry men arrived safely in Castlegregory, leaving the pirates to their fate. Some of the crew of the pirate craft landed at Kilshannig and asked the people how many harvests they had in the year, and on being told two, they answered, "Well, there's two more for you if you come out to the wreck." Some of the Kilshannig people went out and were presented with two chests of gold, which were so heavy that they capsized the canoe and went to the bottom of the sea. The rest of the cargo of gold was safely salvaged by the pirates, who disappeared mysteriously and were never heard of again. Many years after this event, divers came to try and recover the two lost chests; but on descending they found them guarded by serpents "as big as horses," and were obliged to give up the work. So the chests of gold still remain beneath the green

waters in the Magharee Channel. This story of the pirate ship can still be heard in the neighbourhood, and it sounds better when told in the graphic language of the district.

Another legend is here given as it was taken down a short while ago from the lips of an inhabitant. It is the legend of a mermaid. Many years since—not in the days of the oldest man now living in Kilshannig, but in the days of the father of the oldest living inhabitant, it happened that a fisherman was going along the kelp covered rocks to his usual fishing ground where he stood the day long waiting for a nibble from a wrass. As he walked along he saw a mermaid seated on a rock combing her hair, and having a white wand by her side. Going up to her, he put his hand on her shoulder, and she rose up and went with him to his house and remained with him as his wife. She was a beautiful woman, and stayed quite contentedly in his cottage by the sea. But at times she was restless for the loss of her white wand, which had been taken away and hidden. Three children were born, and all had webbed feet. As time went on the mermaid wife seemed to forget her former sea life. A big seal, it is true, came daily to the rocks to bask in the sun at low tide, but she did not seem to notice him, and apparently had no thought of changing her life for his sake. But one day, however, when her husband was going out fishing, and was searching for his lines amongst the rubbish in the recess over the fireplace in the cottage, he dislodged the white wand which had been hidden and forgotten many years before. In a moment his wife snapped it up and ran from the house and was never seen or heard of again.



INTERIOR OF KILMELCHEDOR CATHEDRAL.

The big seal ceased to come to the rocks at low tide, and the memory alone of the mermaid wife remained in the district.

There is another seal story told about Kilshannig. One day a fisherman went off to kill a seal. After a time of waiting a large specimen was seen on the rocks with two young ones, "and no mother," he said, "could be more careful about putting her babies to sleep." By and by, when the seal had settled her family and lulled them to rest, the fisherman crept up with a club and was about to kill the mother-seal when to his astonishment she said to him in Irish, "Don't strike me." "No, nor never will," replied the man, and thereupon dropped his club, and the seal and her babies flopped into the sea. The would-be slayer moved from the place, and immediately a large boulder fell on the spot where the seals had been. Had the fisherman remained there he would have been killed.

Strange legends hang around this wild and primitive coast connected with unknown monsters of the deep. "It's my belief," said a man one day, "and the belief of many, that there is no animal on land but what has its like in the sea"; and then he proceeded to tell of a strange creature which goes around the coast-line from the Magharees to Brandon Head, and is called by the people the "Currane Duv," or "Black Sow." It has been seen in the memory of man—a large animal, 15 ft. long, "with mane like a horse," a foot in length, which waves in the water as it swims. Sometimes it goes up the river for a short distance, but its chief habitat is the sea, where it is a terror to the fisher folk! Like the sea-serpent stories, these local traditions grow when recounted on winter nights round the

turf fires, till some folks begin to believe their truth !

Castle Gregory was in 1641 the property of Captain Walter Hussey. He defended the castle against the soldiers of Cromwell, but eventually forfeited his possessions, which were granted to one Thomas Welstead.

Dingle to the Coumanare Lakes. The prospect of an adventure is always attractive and lends additional zest to a mountain climb ; and should the mists come down there is no more likely place to be lost for a time than the tract of mountains which lie between Dingle and the Coumanare Lakes. A walk to these lakes, however, is such a pleasant addition to a visit to Dingle that no apology need be made for recommending it. The old grassy road which starts near the grove in Dingle crosses the main Connor Hill Road $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the town, and thence going down to the Garfinny River straight from the Connor Hill Pass. A pile of stones near the head of the road marks the place where some hero of old was slain, and near this spot the Garfinny River is reduced to little more than a rivulet trickling down the mountain slope on the R. Turning to the R. along the bank (R.) of this stream a stiff pull up hill leads to a plateau of mossy peat "hags" and slushy valleys, with patches of stones where the rain of centuries has worn away the peat covering. All around is a wild stretch of this rough ground, extending to the top of the cliffs overlooking the "Pedlar's Lake" and Lough Coumclahane on the N., and to the point of Listorgan Hill (2001 ft.) to the S.E. This plateau is some 2000 ft. over the sea, and here may be found embedded in the

peat "hags" the curious "Coumanare arrows" which have puzzled many people. These arrows are sticks of 1 ft. or $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft. in length, pointed at each end. One theory with regard to them is that they were used to lame deer which were driven across the ground.

One m. due E. across this plateau brings the traveller to the head waters of a little rivulet which shortly gains strength and goes to form one of the many pretty waterfalls which enrich the scenery of this neighbourhood. A clear view of the Coumanare Lakes, three in number, is obtained shortly after meeting this stream. A clear day is indispensable for the enjoyment of this view. Care should be taken in descending the precipitous side of the western lake. In many places treacherous green moss covers a slippery rock, and the loss of foothold may mean a bad fall.

The return journey from the valley of Coumanare may be made by turning to the L. and descending to Lough Coumclahane, which lies in the shadow of Slieveanea (2026 ft.), or by following the shores of the lakes to the far end of the easternmost, and thence going along the stream which leads to the waterfall at the head of Lough Adoon, and so to the Connor Hill Road at Kilmore. In recommending this excursion the visitor should be warned that all his energies will be required to carry out the programme. The Kerry mountains are not to be trifled with when the mists come down, and a wrong turn under such circumstances may land the traveller in an awkward place, and render necessary a long and weary walk home. For the uninitiated it is well to give this warning. On the heights a mountaineer walks on an inner

circle of small dimensions ; a false move down hill may give a very wide outer segment for return. Also it is well to remember that though easy to get down a place, it is not always easy to return again if a false move has been made.

Dingle to the Tearaght Rock. If the month of May or early June is chosen for the journey, the ornithologist will have a pleasure to remember. A "hooker" from Dingle is the best way to travel, and the length of the journey in point of time of course depends on the wind. The distance by sea is 20 m. The sail along parallel to the cliffs affords a totally fresh view of the coast-line of Kerry, and frequently a sunfish may be seen *en route*.

The Tearaght Rock is an irregular cone-shaped island in the Blasket group, 602 ft. in height. On the N. end of this rock is the lighthouse, 275 ft. over the sea, and having a very powerful light of 45,000 candle-power. Large numbers of puffins (*Fratercula Arctica*) come to this rock in the spring, and nest in the holes in the ground. The small storm petrel (*Procellaria pelagica*), called by some "Mother Carey's chicken," also nests on this bare islet.

Amongst the many legends of the W. of Ireland none is perhaps more pathetic than that which tells of an enchanted island far away in the W. "Y Breassail" this island is called, and its glories are seen by eager watchers at sunset. Sometimes it has been seen so distinctly that sailors have gone forth to reach it, expecting to land in a few hours ; and two hundred years ago so sure was one Captain Rich of the existence of this wonderful island, that "he supposed" he discovered a harbour with two headlands, one on

either side. But he could never get to the shore, and lost sight of the island in a mist. Those who know the W. of Ireland, with its gorgeous sunsets and its fairyland of islands lying violet over the sea, can understand how the legend kept its hold of an imaginative people. They can understand, too, the feelings which probably came to St Brandon, "the Navigator," looking out over the Blasket Sound to the western isles, tempting him to explore the unknown region towards the setting sun. Denis Florence MacCarthy, in his "St Brandon," has put in verse the spirit of the western legend of "Y Breassail":—

"And, as beyond the outstretched wave of Time
The eye of Faith a brighter land may meet,
So did I dream of some more sunny clime
Beyond the waste of waters at my feet."

Dingle to Cloghane and Brandon. Brandon village, on the E. side of the mountain, must not be confounded with Brandon Creek, which is on the W. The latter has been mentioned in this chapter when dealing with the country about Kilmalchedor, and it only remains to suggest a visit to the village of Brandon and the point of that name, which lies $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. beyond the village of Cloghane. The journey can be made either from Tralee or Dingle. If from Dingle, the traveller will first surmount the Connor Hill Pass, and make his way direct to Cloghane village. From here a road runs N., crossing the river of Lisnacailwee, 1 m. from Cloghane, and thence to Brandon Quay, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, where a new pier has promoted the fishing industry to a very considerable extent. From Brandon Quay, a "bohereen," a bye-road, leads out to Brandon Point, and a rough footpath,

KERRY

very faintly indicated, leads along the sloping ground at the top of the cliffs to a wide glen, through which a stream flows and ends in a waterfall over the cliffs. This is an extremely wild and attractive bit of country. The distance to this stream is 2 m., and the return S.E. across the shoulder of the hill to Brandon village is about the same distance. Should there be time and inclination a farther extension of this tour might be made by walking along the N. slope of Mount Brandon by Beenaman (1238 ft.), the distance from Brandon Point to Tiduff being about 7 m. From Tiduff an old road runs down to Brandon Creek on the W. side of the mountain. The return to Dingle can then be made either on foot (10 m.) or by car. Arrangements, if the latter mode is followed, should be previously made to have a car sent from Dingle to Brandon Creek.

CHAPTER X

LISTOWEL

THE town of Listowel, standing on the N. shore of the river Feale, is the chief town in the barony of Irraghticonnor, which embraces all the country N. of the Feale to the Shannon. This barony was formerly "Iraght-y-Connor," and the greater part of it was held by the sept of the O'Connors, or, as they were sometimes termed, O'Connor Kerry. In the days of Queen Elizabeth, one of these O'Connors was Constable of Carrickfoyle Castle, under the Earl of Desmond

FitzMaurice, Lord of Lixnaw, was also a feudatory chief owing allegiance to the great palatine Earl, but when the Desmond was a prisoner in England in 1570, the Lord of Lixnaw took the opportunity of throwing off the overlordship and declaring himself free of the palatine jurisdiction. It was unfortunate for him that he did so, for, in 1575, the Earl of Desmond escaped from captivity, and wreaked stern vengeance on the Lord of Lixnaw, as is shown from the following extract from a letter—A.D. 1576, August 28th :—

“The Baron of Lixnaw to the Lord Deputy, Sir Henry Sidney.—“My bounden duty to your good lordship. . . . The Earl of Desmond’s men in several companys came to my poor country. One company to the S. side of the country, and one other to the N. side, and found one of my tenants (being my chaplain, about the age of fourscore years), took away his plough garrans, killed two young men, and left not so much as my poor greyhounds unkilld.”

After charging the Earl’s Constable of Carrickfoyle with complicity, he adds a postscript as follows :—“My good Lord, after sending off this letter, the Earl of Desmond did send such force as he brought with him over the mountains this morning into my country, and invaded all the W. part of the same, and carried with him 600 kine, 800 sheep and hogs, to the utter undoing of myself and all my poor tenants.”

This seems to have been a regular Border raid, differing but little from those which took place in Scotland and North England at the time. As a centre for touring, Listowel does not pre-

sent quite so many attractions as the other places mentioned in the pages of this "Little Guide to Kerry." But there are nevertheless some few expeditions to be made from this centre which will interest many people.

Approaches. The town of Listowel may be approached by the Great Southern and Western Railway from Limerick or Tralee.

(1) By the first-named route the railway enters the county of Kerry at Abbeyfeale, a small market-town on the borders of Limerick and Kerry, which takes its name from the river Feale, which flows close at hand. From this point for 11 m. S., the railway runs through the valley of this beautiful river, past the pleasant woods of Kilmorna, to Listowel.

(2) The line from Tralee passes the stations of Ardfert, Abbeydorney, and Lixnaw, and crossing the river Feale, about 3 m. from the latter place, enters Listowel from the S.

The "Stacks" Mountains are seen on the R. of the train from the vicinity of Ardfert and Abbeydorney, and the plain of bog and pasture-land then opens out in a wide sweep to the E., bounded by the distant, low, Glanaruddery Hills. On the L. hand side of the line beyond Ardfert can be seen the woods surrounding the house of Mr Talbot Crosbie; and at Abbeydorney on the L. can be seen the ruins of the ancient abbey, formerly called "Kyrie Eleison," of which an account will be found in Chapter VIII. of this Guide. At Lixnaw, on a windy hilltop on the L. of the railway line, is seen the neglected tomb of the Earl of Kerry rising bare against the sky—a landmark for miles and miles over the flat land.

LISTOWEL

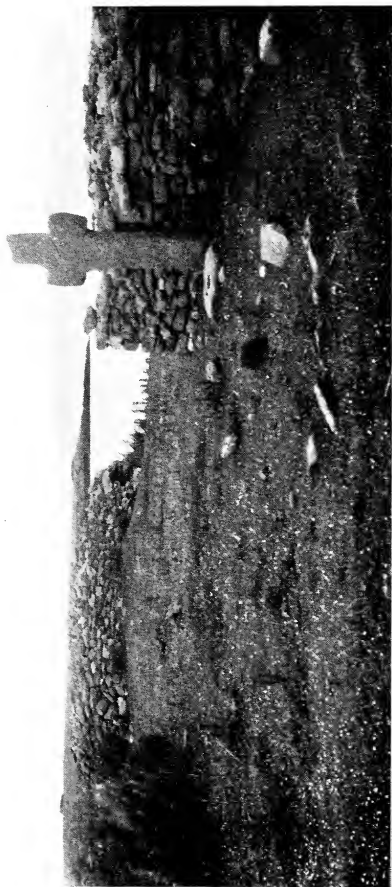
(3) A third way of approach, to be recommended to cyclists on account of the comparative excellence of the road, is that by way of the old mail car route, which leaves Tralee by the railway station, and passing the gates of Oak Park (1 m.) on the L. leads N.E. and upwards by the shoulder of the "Stacks" Mountains and Kilflyn, through a goodly cultivated district to the town of Listowel (18 m.).

(1) Listowel itself contains little to interest the traveller. The town, with a population of some 3500 people, consists of a square—a fine, wide-open space wherein is situated the Catholic church, the Protestant Episcopal church, and the banks, and residences of some of the leading inhabitants. Two long streets lead from this square to the court-house and railway station, with an offstreet leading to the poorhouse and the country beyond. Another road from the square at the N. end leads past the gates and pretty grounds of Gurtenard House (a lodge belonging to the Earl of Listowel), down to the bridge which spans the river Feale, $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the town. The view from this bridge, looking either up or down the line, is extremely beautiful, and the bridge itself is a bit of workmanship which reflects credit on its designer, being both useful and ornamental.

(2) *Ballinruddery*. On crossing the bridge, a road to the R. leads to Tralee, and a road to the L., passing the gates of Ballinruddery ($\frac{1}{4}$ m.), leads on by Duagh to Abbeydorney. The woods of Ballinruddery afford a delightful walk for 1 m. or more along the banks of the river Feale, to which they slope. Ballinruddery belongs to the Knights of Kerry, and the ruins of an old tower and of a more modern house are met with about 1 m. from

the entrance gate. The tower stands high over the wooded banks of the Feale, which here bends in a loop round the foot of the rock on which the ruin stands. The views of wood and river from this attractive point cannot fail to please.

(3) *Listowel Castle*. Returning to Listowel from this walk to Ballinruddery, the ruins of the old castle may be inspected. Little now remains, however, to mark this once famous stronghold of the Earls of Kerry. It must have been an important place in the days of long ago, and history says it was the last place which held out against the forces of Sir Charles Wilmot in the year 1600. Sir Charles Wilmot was preparing a mine to blow up this castle when a rush of water prevented further work in that direction. Eventually, however, he mined the works, and the garrison surrendered at discretion. There were only eighteen men in the fortress, and as nine of the English soldiers had been killed during the siege, Wilmot ordered nine of his captives to be hanged. The rest of the prisoners were sent to the Lord President of Munster, who, finding they had been under protection before they rebelled, ordered their execution. A priest named Dermot M'Brodie was spared under the following circumstances. Lord Kerry's eldest son, a child of five years, had escaped with his nurse, and was hidden in a cave in a large wood in the neighbourhood — probably about Ballinruddery. Father Dermot M'Brodie offered to bring the child to Sir Charles Wilmot provided his life was spared. This condition being granted, the priest went forth and found the child, and brought him to the general, who sent him with his guardian priest to the Lord President. This



OLD CROSS ON ILLAUNTANNIG



LISTOWEL

child, when he grew up, became a loyal subject of King James I.

(4) *Listowel to Ballybunion*. Travellers should not be deterred from paying a visit to the village of Ballybunion by the Lartigue railway, a single elevated line, which runs for 10 m. direct from Listowel to the village. The name is the worst part of Ballybunion; but when one considers that it merely means the "Town of Bunion," the sting is taken out of it. The glorious air and views of cliff and sea have long made this place celebrated (and justly so) as a health resort. Three m. to the N. of the village, on a promontory at the mouth of the Shannon, stands Lick Castle, or, as it is called, "The Devil's Castle." Three m. farther on the ruins of Beal Castle can be seen. The ancient fortress, formerly called Beaulieu, was held by the Earls of Kerry, and it was here that Maurice Stack was treacherously killed after a banquet in the year 1600. The road from Beal passes through Astee, and a cross is met 5 m. distant. The road to the L. leads to Ballylongford village (1 m.), and to the old castle of Carrickfoyle, a place which bore an important part in the stormy days of the 16th and 17th centuries.

(5) *Carrickfoyle* (called in Celtic "Carraig au Phuill," or the "Rock of the Chasm," by the "Four Masters") is situated on the shores of a small inlet on the Shannon, called Ballylongford Bay. It was a suitable base of operations in time of war, as supplies of men and arms could be obtained with ease from the opposite coast of Clare, or could be brought by boat down the river Shannon from Limerick. In 1579 it was held by nineteen Spaniards and fifty of the Irish

adherents of James FitzMaurice of Desmond, the whole force being commanded by one Count Julio. Sir William Pelham besieged it, and on Palm Sunday 1580 it was taken, and fifty of the garrison put to the sword by the English forces, under the immediate command of Captain Mackworth. Count Julio himself was hanged. The present building of Carrickfoyle stands 180 ft. from the road, and a space of wet slob land caused by spring tides has to be crossed. The upper part of the S.W. face is gone, but the N.E. face of the building is in a fair state of preservation, and there are still the remains of a portion of the outer wall of a courtyard. The castle was built of coarse flagstone, with limestone at the corners. Almost opposite Carrickfoyle is the ruined abbey of Lislaughtin, founded in the year 1478 by John O'Connor for Franciscan monks.

The return journey to Listowel can be made by passing through the village of Ballylongford and turning N. and then again E. to Tarbert (5 m.). Tarbert is a quiet little seaport town with nothing remarkable about it. Formerly a man-of-war was quartered in the Tarbert Roads for a portion of the year. From this place the road runs nearly straight to Listowel, and is without exception one of the dullest and most dreary journeys in the county. It is impossible to say anything in its favour. The expeditions from Listowel may include visits to Abbeydorney, Rattoo, Lixnaw, and Ballyheige. But as these have been given in Chapter VIII. when dealing with Tralee and its neighbourhood, they will not be further mentioned.

In dealing with such an extensive area as the county of Kerry in the small space available in a little guide-book, it is impossible to do more than indicate some few expeditions and suggest to visitors the extension of their journeys as they may see fit when in the county. Kerry is so full of historical interest, and is a field so little explored, that all who come may, by concentrating their attention on one particular locality, add greatly to the general knowledge already possessed of the county. Old abbeys and castles in abundance stand almost forgotten, their history lost in the mists of time. Old customs still prevail, which would give a clue to many an interesting bit of history, and many a little incident and fact connected with this charming county would afford a theme for a romance equal to any woven from the history of any other county. Not alone in Killarney and its neighbourhood does the interest of Kerry begin and end. Almost every corner of the county possesses some attractive legendary lore. The very records of the commissioners appointed to take over the forfeited lands after the Desmond wars present a mine of interesting information, and throw a light on many puzzling questions, and give glimpses at feudal customs which add considerably to the study of history. It is to be hoped that in the near future some writer may take the matter in hand, and work out from the facts obtainable a story of Kerry which will bring the romantic, chivalrous, history of the "Kingdom" vividly to the mind.

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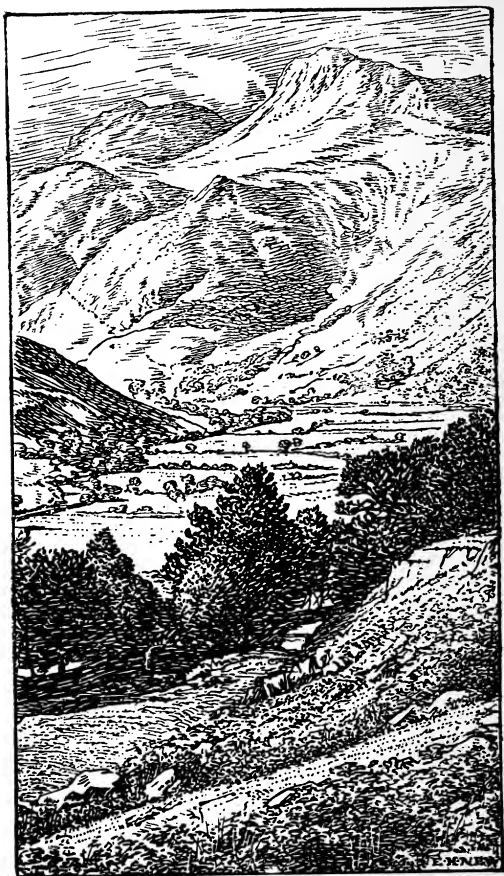
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